

Jordan Times

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No damages reported in quake

AMMAN (J.T.) — An earthquake hit the central Jordan Valley region at 0808 hours Friday morning, a spokesman for the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources said. A spokesman for the Public Security Department said no damages were reported. The ministry spokesman said the quake registered 4.9 on the Richter scale and was felt in many areas of the country. Engineer Qais Al-Qaisi of the National Resources Authority (NRA) said the tremor, which lasted seconds, was registered for 10 minutes on measuring machine graphs. He said that damage or casualties as a result of a quake depends on distance from the quake's epicentre, the geological composition of the earth crust at the centre and the resistance of buildings. He added that the East Bank has moved 107 kilometres northward since the early formation of the Jordan Valley, and that it is due to this movement that tremors happen.

Kuwait to try five Iranians

KUWAIT (R) — Five Iranians stand trial Saturday accused of subversion believed linked to efforts by Iran to export its revolutionary brand of Islamic fundamentalism to the rest of the Gulf. They face charges of sabotage and belonging to a group seeking to overthrow the country's social and political system by force or any other means, officials say. The five — described as two tailors, a barber, a van driver and a man running a medical-sanitary business — are alleged to have committed offences between 1980, a year after the revolution that toppled Iran's Shah, and February 1984. Officials have not said when the accused were arrested, or whether the case is linked to blasts in December 1983 which hit the U.S. and French embassies and other targets in Kuwait, killing six people and wounding more than 80. Fourteen people received jail terms and six were sentenced to death — three in absentia — for those bombings, but as far as is known, none of the death sentences has been carried out.

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U.N. team ends mission to Iran

NICOSIA (AP) — A United Nations delegation completed its week-long inspection of Prisoner of War (PoW) camps for Iraqi troops in Iran Friday and left for home, reported the official Iranian news agency, IRNA. Mohammad Jafar Mahallati, director general for international affairs at the Iranian foreign ministry, described the delegation's visit as "thoroughly successful and satisfactory," IRNA said. The U.N. delegation visited PoW camps in Iraq before it visited Iran.

U.S.-Saudi arms package under study

WASHINGTON (USIA) — The United States is maintaining "a continuing dialogue, including arms requests, with Saudi Arabia as part of our close security relationship," a U.S. spokesman said Thursday. "In that context, it is correct to say that an arms package to enhance Saudi defence capability has been under consideration," the spokesman told his questioner. But he added that until the administration is ready to notify Congress of such a proposed sale, he would not comment further.

Djerejian named U.S. spokesman

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — Edward Djerejian, a career diplomat, has been named the U.S. State Department's new deputy spokesman to replace Alan Romberg, who retired last week. Mr. Djerejian has held a number of positions in the State Department and abroad, mainly in the Middle East and Europe. His most recent overseas post was deputy chief of mission in Amman, where he received the department's Superior Honor Award. He has also served in Morocco, Lebanon, France, and in the Soviet Union. Mr. Djerejian speaks Arabic, French and Russian.

U.S. refuses comment on Israel-China arms deals

WASHINGTON (USIA) — A U.S. State Department spokesman Thursday refused reporters to the governments of Israel and China for comment on "their respective arms trade" when he was asked about a Washington Times article that said Israel has sold about \$1,000 million worth of military equipment to China. The article also said there are about 200 Israeli advisers in China.

Assad nominated for third term

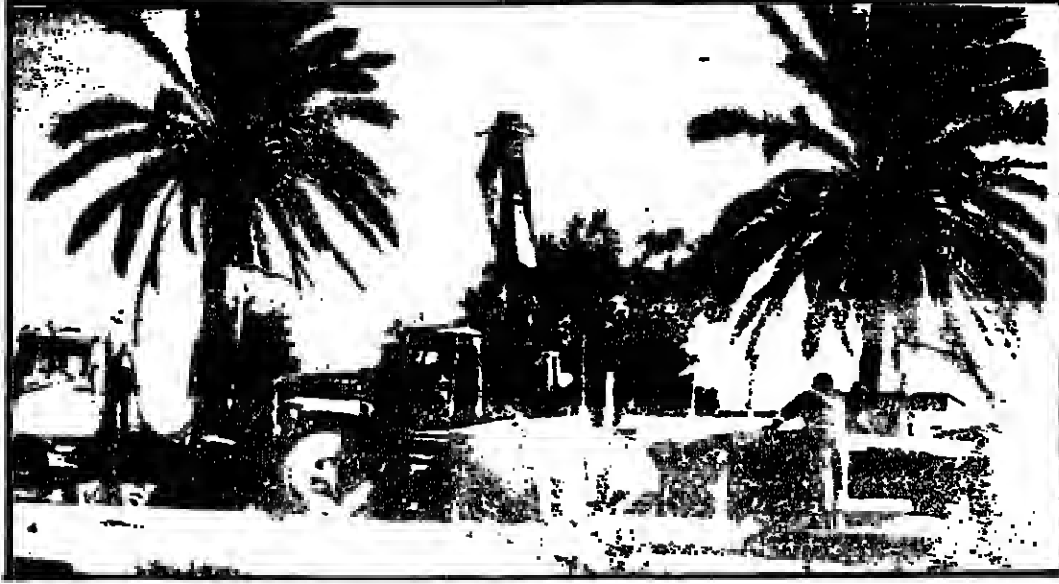
DAMASCUS (AP) — The regional command of the ruling Baath Party in Syria on Friday announced that it has nominated Hafez Al Assad for a third term as president. Mr. Assad, 54, who took control of Syria in a bloodless coup in 1970, was reelected party secretary general at the recently concluded meeting of the Baath Party congress and his re-nomination had been expected.

Security Council debates Mideast conference calls

UNITED NATIONS (Agencies) — The U.N. Security Council was continuing its discussion Friday of whether the United Nations should convene an international peace conference on the Middle East.

Israel and the United States oppose the proposed conference which would bring together all parties to the Middle East conflict and the two super-powers. The U.N. General Assembly has approved resolutions calling for a conference, and the proposal has received growing international support. The Security Council also considered that matter last week, and may examine the issue for several weeks to come. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar earlier this month requested that the council report its views to him by March 1. In Cairo, Egypt's President Hosni Mubarak said Thursday agreement between Jordan and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) on the Middle East would contribute positively to his talks in March with President Reagan. Addressing senior policemen at the police academy, Mr. Mubarak said he planned to go to Washington during the first week of March. "There is no doubt that a Jordanian-Palestinian agreement will add positivity and realism to my consultations with the American president," Jordan and the PLO have been seeking to coordinate their approach to Middle East peace efforts. Mr. Mubarak said the Palestinian problem and Middle East peace prospects would be on top

of the agenda when he meets Mr. Reagan. He said he would also visit Britain and France for talks with Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher and President Francois Mitterrand on his way to the United States. In Washington, addressing Middle East issues, Senator Richard Lugar, the new chairman of the U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee, said "the problems of the Middle East are likely to be with us throughout the next few years in one form or another, as they have been for centuries." Addressing the National Press Club in Washington, Mr. Lugar emphasised, "that is not to say that we will not make headway, but (some) times are... riper for solution than others." At present, he said, "the Israelis have a very full plate of dealing with the withdrawal of forces from Lebanon in stages, of attempting to get a disastrous economic situation under control. And they are working constructively on that, as we are with them." The Egyptians, he noted, "are still part of the Camp David process. President Mubarak will be over here. They have some issues with Israel on the border... some problems of bringing along closer cooperation there." "There is movement certainly with the Jordanians to get closer to



An Israeli crane loads concrete blocks and equipment into a trailer Friday from the Israeli army's northern most "front line" at Lebanon's Awali River as part of the first phase of Israel's three-stage plan to withdraw its occupation forces from Lebanon (AP wirephoto)

Lebanon blames Israel for breakdown in Naqoura talks

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Lebanese officials Friday blamed Israel for the breakdown in military-level talks aimed at coordinating the withdrawal of Israeli troops from Lebanon as Israel said the first phase of its pullback plan will go ahead despite concerns it might cause new factional fighting in the evacuated areas. U.N. Under-Secretary General Brian Urquhart met with Israeli and Lebanese officials on Friday in an effort to resurrect the stalled talks at the headquarters of the United Nations Truce Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) in the South Lebanese village of Naqoura. A senior administration official quoted by the Associated Press said: "The Israelis are to blame. They wanted the talks to be limited to coordination for only the first stage of their withdrawal from the Sidon area." "We want coordination for all three stages of the Israeli withdrawal, not only for Sidon," he continued. "And we wonder why the Israeli side is always reminding us of massacres that might happen after they leave." The troop withdrawal talks, which began last Nov. 8 and had broken down once before, were suspended Thursday when the Lebanese and Israeli military negotiations could not agree whether withdrawal timetables or "security arrangements" should be discussed first. The Israeli side has insisted that a three-phase withdrawal plan adopted by the Israeli cabinet last week constitutes a schedule and that Lebanon should focus on developing a security system for the city of Sidon, which is to be evacuated by Israeli forces in the first stage. The Lebanese delegation, however, has refused to discuss security measures, demanding instead firm dates for the second and third phases of the Israeli withdrawal. Mr. Urquhart held talks with Israeli Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin Friday and officials said afterwards the Israelis planned to stick to their timetable. "We are definitely pulling out as scheduled," one official said. Mr. Urquhart, U.N. under-secretary-general for special political affairs, later arrived in Beirut. After a meeting with Fuad Turk, director general of Lebanon's Foreign Ministry, Mr.

PLO to call Central Council to session next month

TUNIS (R) — The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) will convene a meeting of its Central Council in mid-February, the PLO news agency Wafa reported Thursday. The decision was announced at the end of a three-day meeting in Tunis of the PLO Executive Committee, the PLO's inner cabinet, chaired by PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat. The meeting of the Central Council, with some 60 members, will be the first since the Palestine National Council (PNC), the Palestinian parliament-in-exile, reaffirmed Mr. Arafat's leadership of the PLO in November after 18 months of internal strife. The Central Council, an intermediary body between the executive and the PNC, has been dormant recently and its exact membership and role are in doubt. Mr. Arafat's headline opponent, who has no seats on the executive, seek a greater role for the council. No venue was named for the meeting, but Wafa said it would take place after consultations with PNC Speaker Sheikh Abdul Hamid Saeh. A senior PLO leader said Thursday that Mr. Arafat has made "very intensive" efforts to end differences with Syria and that he visited almost every Arab country to explain his position. Mr. Salim Zanoun, the PLO representative in Kuwait, was quoted by the Kuwait newspaper Al Watan that the PLO leadership has been extending its hands to Syria for reconciliation for two years and that PLO leaders sought Soviet and Algerian mediation for this purpose. Asked about the reasons for the PLO-Syrian differences, Mr. Zanoun said: "We have not heard any reply to this question. Sometimes we hear that it is a personal difference between Syrian President Hafez Al Assad and Mr. Arafat."

Bonn rejects demand for halt to missile siting

BONN (R) — Defence Minister Manfred Woerner Friday rejected demands that deployment of U.S. Pershing-2 missiles in West Germany be halted until the cause of an accident which killed three U.S. soldiers and injured 16 others had been determined. Mr. Woerner, speaking during a special debate called by the opposition Social Democrats (SPD), told parliament that the U.S. army had changed some training drills after the accident two weeks ago but stressed there was no problem with the weapon. The first stage of a Pershing-2, newly arrived from the United States, burst into flames as it was being hoisted from its shipping container at camp red leg east of Stuttgart. The U.S. army said no nuclear weapons were in the vicinity. Mr. Woerner repeated that there was never any danger to the civilian population at the time of the accident.

Sidon communities unite to mourn explosion victim

SIDON, Lebanon (R) — Sidon's Muslim and Christian communities Friday put on a display of unity as 5,000 mourners flocked to the funeral of the daughter of a Muslim leader killed by a car bomb attack. Mourners shouted anti-Israeli slogans as 12-year-old Natasha Saad was buried in the presence of Sidon's Maronite Christian Archbishop Ibrahim Helou, Sunni Muslim Mufti Sheikh Mohammad Jaleddine and Shi'ite Sheikh Hassan Subayti. Halim Fayyad, governor of South Lebanon, represented President Amin Gemayel, underlining the Beirut government's concern about the future of Sidon, the main city of the south, when Israeli troops leave next month. The presence of the city's main spiritual leaders and officials of Sunni and Shi'ite militias also showed their determination to avoid sectarian trouble when the Israelis go. Some mourners showed their determination to avoid sectarian

Egypt may not get equal American aid as Israel

WASHINGTON (USIA) — "We have previously said (on the issue of extraordinary assistance) that we will defer a decision pending the adoption of an effective Israeli economic stabilisation programme," Speaker said, "and a determination of the utility of such additional U.S. assistance in supporting such a programme." The subject of aid to Egypt under the Camp David accords came as another U.S. spokesman referred to a Wall Street Journal story saying Israel will ask for \$12 billion in additional economic and military aid over the next three years (See page 2). Larry Speakes said Washington has been working with Tel Aviv for the last several weeks to determine Israel's needs and the U.S. response.

British Coal Board sets conditions to resume talks

LONDON (AP) — National coal board chiefs Friday held out four written backdown from the miners' union over pit closures as the price for agreeing to enter new peace talks aimed at ending the 10-month-old strike. "What we need is a piece of paper from the National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) — we don't mind how rudely they put it — saying, 'yes, we are prepared to sit down with you and consider the methodology of the closure of uneconomic pits,'" said board member Tom MacPherson. Earlier, press and radio reports said the coal board was to meet Friday to consider a union offer to start talks "without preconditions." The union offer did not, however, specifically accept

Indian spy suspect pleads innocence

NEW DELHI (R) — The personal assistant to Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's former principal secretary, one of 15 people arrested in a major spy scandal, pleaded his innocence and asked for bail Friday, the Press Trust of India (PTI) said. It said T.N. Kher made the bail application before Metropolitan Magistrate Bharat Bhushan and it would be heard on Monday. PTI quoted the application as saying Mr. Kher had been falsely implicated and had been unable to meet his family or his lawyer since his arrest. The principal secretary, P.C. Alexander, resigned after the scandal broke last week. PTI said Mr. Bhushan Friday remanded in custody till Monday a personal assistant to the deputy secretary to President Zail Singh in connection with the spy case. It identified the suspect as Ashok Kumar, personal assistant to a deputy secretary in the president's secretariat. It said Kumar was arrested "a few days ago" and produced before Mr. Bhushan. Earlier, intelligence agents arrested S. Sankaran, an officer in the

Press Relations Department for the president, on suspicion of involvement in the espionage case. A Delhi magistrate Friday finished taking the statements of three prosecution witnesses, the agency said. Two prosecution witnesses from Mr. Gandhi's office made statements in camera to a magistrate Thursday, PTI said. It quoted police in Bokaro in the eastern state of Bihar as saying a top secret reference book with military communication codes had been found missing from a police wireless office. It said three office employees had been suspended and investigations were still going on. It did not say if the probe was linked to the spy scandal. Indian newspapers said at least five countries from the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) were involved in the scandal and investigators had begun probing the spy ring from three West European capitals. The independent Hindustan Times said investigations indicated that NATO members involved included France and the United States.

Another daily, the Indian Express, said senior intelligence officials had flown to London, Paris and Brussels to pursue inquiries. It quoted intelligence sources as saying the spy network appeared to have been active in India for about four years. American embassy sources described reports of U.S. links as unfounded, while a French embassy spokesman refused to comment on any reported French involvement. The Hindustan Times said French and U.S. intelligence officers were "prone to share secret information" on an informal basis despite what it called differences between Paris and Washington. France's deputy military attaché in Delhi, Lieutenant-Colonel Alain Bolley, returned to Paris last Monday, denying allegations that he was involved. Two French nationals, in addition to Col. Bolley, were implicated in the case, Indian press reports have said. Meanwhile, police are investigating the disappearance of Defence Ministry films of an Indian guided missile in Bangalore.

Swiss police launch hunt for Springer kidnappers

CHUR, Switzerland (R) — Police were looking Friday for two men who kidnapped the grandson of West German press baron Axel Springer after clues were found verifying the young man's claim that he was abducted. Markus Reinhardt, commander of the police in the eastern Swiss canton of Graubunden, told a news conference he was now convinced that Sven Axel Springer, 19, was kidnapped. Only 24 hours earlier he had told journalists there was a 50-50 chance that the kidnapping was a hoax. The young Springer, having helped the police Thursday night with a reconstruction of the crime, returned to Munich, West Germany, Friday morning, accompanied by his mother and sister. His grandfather, Axel Springer, 72, publisher of the popular West German newspaper Bild and other newspapers and magazines, is well-known for his staunchly

conservative views, support for Israel and for the reunification of Germany. Sven Axel was kidnapped on Sunday night from an exclusive school in Zoug. A ransom of 15 million marks (\$5 million) was sought for his release, but the abductors freed him on Wednesday night before any ransom was paid. Mr. Reinhardt said Sven Axel was driven around in two cars, tied up and blindfolded and according to his own testimony spent 14 hours locked up in the boot of one of the cars. Mr. Reinhardt and other members of the cantonal police described the kidnapping as follows: Springer was abducted in the early hours of Monday morning from his third-floor room at the private Lyceum Alpinum in Zoug, a school favoured by West German aristocrats and industrialists. He was ordered by his kidnappers to pull a pair of jeans over his pyjama bottoms and to put on a sweater and a coat. Springer told the police he believed the men were armed. He was then taken to a second floor toilet, where they locked the door behind them, and lowered him from the window by means of a red rope to the ground. One kidnapper slid down the rope first and the other loosened it and climbed down a drain-pipe. He was then driven, blindfolded, to an unknown location and taken into a house where he was forced to make tape recordings, announcing the kidnapping. The recordings were played by telephone to his mother in Munich on Tuesday and to the Springer Publishing Company on Wednesday morning. Some time later he was taken from the house, placed in the boot of an old-model Mercedes and driven around. On Wednesday night at about 9.00 p.m. (2000 GMT) he was driven to the multi-storey car park at Zurich airport. One of the kidnappers then led him united to the lifts, removed the blindfold, and pushed him in to one of the lifts in which several other people were on the way down to the terminal. He apparently spoke to none of them but went to a newspaper kiosk to ask where he could find a telephone. He then walked to the airport police office, unnamed, where he telephoned his mother in Munich and was questioned by police. That night he was brought to Chur, capital of the canton, for further questioning. Mr. Reinhardt said a psychiatrist present at the questioning said the young Springer was completely normal, although over-tired and suffering from stress. Evidence at the school, including fibres appearing to come from a red rope, the locked toilet door and open window, helped convince police that Springer was telling the truth.

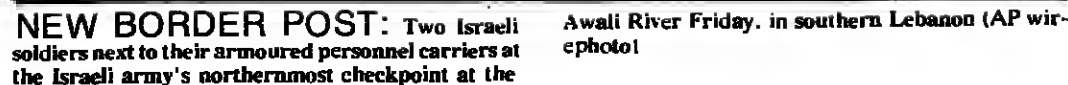
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CAIRO (R) — Some 200 Egyptian and Palestinian demonstrators burned the Israeli flag at Cairo's annual book fair Friday protesting against Israel being allowed to exhibit, eyewitnesses said.

The demonstrators handed out pamphlets denouncing the 1979 Egypt-Israeli peace treaty and called for the demonstrators to bring an Israeli flag they brought with them and began to burn it.

The PLO move represented "a green light to all Arab countries to break the siege against Zionism," the newspaper added.



BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq said its warplanes have hit a "medium-sized naval target" near Iran's Kharg Island oil terminal in the Gulf.

A military spokesman said the target was hit at 9.30 a.m. (0630 GMT) and that the attack was "destructive."

Iraq has in the past used the term "naval target" to refer to merchant ships, often using the phrase "very large target" to describe an oil tanker.

The Iraqis have now claimed 22 hits in the Gulf so far this year.

He said Mr. Perez de Cuellar's report to the Security Council on the talks between Greek and Turkish Cypriot leaders, which broke up last week-end, was almost complete and would be issued soon.

lified to take over the Bashri position. Bashri, a Christian area, is one of the crossing points between central Lebanon and the Israeli-controlled South.

The security sources identified the man killed in Thursday's clash as a Palestinian named Abu Youssef.

ily of assassinated Lebanese President Elect Bashir Gemayel two days before soldiers loyal to the Gemayels slaughtered more than 500 Palestinians in west Beirut refugee camps.

Mr. Rabin arrives in Washington on Sunday and is to meet Defence Secretary Caspar Weinberger and Budget (OMB) which wanted to curb any increase in military aid for Israel as part of its plan to cut the federal deficit.

"Because of the bad practices resorted to by the regime in Sudan, the country has now become a centre of oppression and

Calling on Arab leaders to break diplomatic relations with Sudan, Col. Qadhafi said the Khartoum government "had lost all credibility."

Lebanese security sources say the SLA has been unable to attract recruits recently and has lost some of its members. An Israeli militan-

Junblatt's Progressive Socialist Party (PSP), told Reuters the conference that Mr. Junblatt would definitely quit soon.

Eggplant (large)	100 / 70	Radishes	280 / 250
Eggplant (small)	150 / 130	Spinach	80 / 50
Garlic	180 / 150	Tomatoes	80 / 60
Grapefruit	140 / 110	Turnip	140 / 100

TV & RADIO	WHAT'S GOING ON	FOR THE TRAVELLER	USEFUL TELEPHONE NOS.
JORDAN TELEVISION MAIN CHANNEL Morning Programmes 06:00 Sports 06:25 Children's Programme 06:35 English Teaching 06:45 News 07:00 Koran 07:10 Cartoons 07:20 Children's Programme 07:30 Animals 07:40 Candid Camera 07:50 Local Programme 08:00 Programme Review 08:10 News Programme 08:20 News in Arabic 08:30 Programme Review 08:40 Varieties 08:50 Arabic Film 09:00 News in Arabic 09:10 Film Contd. FOREIGN CHANNEL 16:00 French Programmes: Des chiffres et des lettres 19:00 News in French 19:15 Appartenance 19:30 News in Hebrew 19:45 Telenovela 21:10 Saturday Variety Show 22:00 News in English 22:15 Feature Film: Love is a Many Splendored Thing RADIO JORDAN KSS kHz, AM & 90 MHz, FM & partly on 9560 KHz, SW 07:00 Light Music 07:30 Newsweek 08:00 Morning Show 08:10 News Summary 08:25 Morning Show 08:35 News Summary 08:45 News Summary 08:55 News Summary 09:05 News Summary 09:15 News Summary 09:25 News Summary 09:35 News Summary 09:45 News Summary 09:55 News Summary 10:05 News Summary 10:15 News Summary 10:25 News Summary 10:35 News Summary 10:45 News Summary 10:55 News Summary 11:05 News Summary 11:15 News Summary 11:25 News Summary 11:35 News Summary 11:45 News Summary 11:55 News Summary 12:05 News Summary 12:15 News Summary 12:25 News Summary 12:35 News Summary 12:45 News Summary 12:55 News Summary 13:05 News Summary 13:15 News Summary 13:25 News Summary 13:35 News Summary 13:45 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NEWS IN BRIEF

Amin to convey Hussein's condolences

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Friday deputed Irbid Governor Mohammad Ali Al Amin to take part in the funeral of the late retired Major General Ghassab Sa'oud Al Qadi and to convey the King's condolences and feelings of sorrow to the Al Qadi family.

Committee proposes private universities

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Lower House of Parliament Educational Committee has recommended that the government agree on a proposal for setting up non-commercial private universities. The proposal, submitted by deputy Yousef Al Azem, said that such universities will accommodate Jordanian students who are at present compelled to travel abroad and spend tens of millions of dinars to continue their study abroad.

Team to study status of W. Bank women

AMMAN (Petra) — The Studies and Research Committee of the General Federation of Jordanian Women Thursday discussed preparing working papers for their conference in April. A delegation was formed to contact West Bank women, to investigate and report on women's status and to ask the lawyers union in the West Bank to prepare a study on the subject.

Iraqi civil defence chief due soon

AMMAN (Petra) — Iraqi Civil Defence Director General Imaduddin Hussein Shabib, accompanied by a delegation of senior officers from the department, is due here during the next week on a visit to Jordan at the invitation of Civil Defence Director General Lieutenant General Khaled Al Tarawneh. The delegation will visit a number of civil defence departments in the Kingdom with the aim of expanding the scope of cooperation between the two departments.



Representative from the International Union for the Conservation of Nature, Mr. Michael Cockerell (second right), Thursday meets with Minister of Culture, Tourism and Antiquities Taher Hikmat (right) for talks on an environmental strategy for Jordan (Petra photo).

Conservation union, Jordan discusses environment strategy

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan and the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN) Thursday held talks on ways to conserve the environment around Jordan's archaeological sites. The talks were held here between IUCN representative Michael Cockerell and Jordanian officials during Mr. Cockerell's five-day visit to Jordan which ended Thursday.

During a meeting with Minister of Culture, Tourism and Antiquities Taher Hikmat Thursday, Mr. Cockerell discussed cooperation between Jordan and the IUCN in the conservation of nature and the union's expertise and technical help to Jordan in this respect.

Mr. Cockerell arrived in Amman at the invitation of Jordan to discuss these affairs and to help the country work out a strategy for the conservation of nature and protecting the environment.

Commissioner General outlines agency's plight, expected cuts

Rydbeck denies political motives are behind UNRWA crisis

Special from Vienna

United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine refugees (UNRWA) Commissioner General Olof Rydbeck has denied that there are political motives behind the financial crisis currently facing UNRWA.

In an interview with the Jordan Times and Al Ra'i, Mr. Rydbeck said that these allegations are completely baseless but added that the agency has been subjected to other unfounded allegations since UNRWA's crisis.

He said that the United States contribution to UNRWA is much larger than its contributions to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the U.S. aid to UNRWA can be considered as the largest foreign aid to any international or regional organisation. Mr. Rydbeck also affirmed that all the countries concerned have agreed that UNRWA should continue, not only for humanitarian reasons but for political reasons too.

Asked about his interpretation of the contradiction between the support of these countries for UNRWA through statements and the diminishing contributions from these countries, Mr. Rydbeck pointed out that most of those governments who contribute to the UNRWA budget are

currently suffering real financial problems, manifested the obvious deficit in their budgets. This, he said, forced most of these countries to reduce a large part of their contributions to international agencies and organisations, including UNRWA.

UNRWA made some partial expansion last year relying on a financial surplus from 1983 and this resulted in the financial problem, Mr. Rydbeck pointed out. Regarding the possibility of the problem occurring next year, he said that it is too early to predict any thing as this totally depends on the world economy and on the developments in the budget situations of concerned governments. Mr. Rydbeck preferred not to go into details of this issue but reaffirmed that his present goal is to persuade concerned governments to grant additional donations to UNRWA in order to overcome the deficit in its budget for this year. "If we achieve that, in addition to saving \$40 million through postponing some projects

until next year, we will overcome this crisis," he said.

Middle East role

Mr. Rydbeck stressed the necessity that UNRWA goes ahead with its services to refugees and highlighted the agency's major and important role in the Middle East. He added that those who hope for a political solution to the Middle East problem will be hurt if UNRWA collapses because UNRWA was created to serve refugees until a political solution is reached. He expressed his optimism about the possibility of some countries taking positive steps to rescue the agency otherwise, he said, it will shortly face extremely difficult times.

Regarding his expected tour to urge some governments to increase their contributions to the agency, Mr. Rydbeck said that he has arranged some tours of Arab and European countries but, he said, this totally depends on the governments which he will visit. He said: "I can not make the visit upon my own desire. It has to be arranged and I have to be sure that I will be received and heard."

About the possibility of contacting some international financial institutions, Mr. Rydbeck ruled out this step because, he said, UNRWA does not expect any country to cover the agency's deficit, but some institutions, such as the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) fund for international development provides aid for training and technical programmes.

Staff reductions

In reply to a question on the effectiveness of financial measures taken lately by UNRWA, Mr. Rydbeck said: "The budget cut did not exceed \$600,000, but the cut in staff was the greater part. We started with the Vienna staff of UNRWA before making cuts in our field offices in the Middle East. In a meeting with field directors two weeks ago, all possible measures to cut spending were discussed. All directors are now back in the field with directives to achieve such cuts."

Mr. Rydbeck said that he expected a substantial spending cut without it affecting services offered to refugees. He said, however, that there will be some problems and some teaching jobs will be terminated and that other jobs will be cut in order to continue essential services.

He said that he regrets having to take measures and described these steps as "difficult but inevitable." Mr. Rydbeck said that the agency will do its best not to dismiss large numbers of employees at one time, but rather will retire those

who are eligible and will not fill vacant posts unless they are essential.

Discussing UNRWA staff reactions to these measures, he said that he had heard of protests from staff unions and that he understands these as a natural reaction.

Asked if it is possible to change the strategy of UNRWA and to change the basis of its financing, Mr. Rydbeck said that he has tried to convince the United Nations General Assembly to include UNRWA's budget within the United Nations budget, but that many U.N. member states are against the move. He said that some are against it because it would increase their contributions, like Japan, France, Britain and the U.S., while other states do not pay any money to UNRWA, such as Russia. He added that he has made other suggestions but to no avail.

Relocating headquarters

Discussing the move of UNRWA's headquarters from Vienna to Amman, Mr. Rydbeck said that there are no talks on the matter and that the Jordanian government did not bring up the matter during the meetings of the advisory committee. He added that when the U.S. suggested in the past that UNRWA should be in the Middle East, Lebanon insisted that UNRWA headquarters should be in Beirut which is not realistic at the time being.

He said that he was approached on the subject while in Amman but he asked his field operations director to explain to Jordanian government officials that such a decision must come from the U.N. General Assembly.

Mr. Rydbeck said there were serious negotiations of the issue in 1981 which did not materialise. He stressed that UNRWA had always had the will to move its headquarters near the area of its operations for "psychological reasons."

Mr. Rydbeck said having the UNRWA headquarters in Vienna and the operations in the Middle East is not convenient. However, he said, the cost of moving the headquarters would be very high. "But if we studied the cost of our presence in Vienna over six years, it would have covered the cost of moving our headquarters," Mr. Rydbeck said. He said that the cost of moving would be very high and that the time is not suitable for such a step due to the current crisis facing the organisation. Mr. Rydbeck declined to give the names of the candidates for his position which he will be vacating at the end of his term next May or June.

Something for everyone this week on Channel Six

For the service of our readers, the Jordan Times will be presenting a weekly preview of the programmes on Jordan Television's Channel 6 compiled by John Boteler, a self-confessed TV-addict with an acting background.

By John Boteler
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN 6 — The big event on Channel 6 this week comes tomorrow (Sunday) at 9.10 with the screening of the first part of "Crime Inc.", a remarkable seven-part series documenting the history, the organisation, the influence, the operation and the implications of organised crime in America and the work of the forces ranged to fight it. Crime Inc. is a compelling analysis of the mafia and its allies — the men who founded a multi-billion dollar industry on brutality, fear and exploitation, which now reaches into every sphere of American life.

Home movies of gangster bosses and police surveillance material help reveal the insidious means by which the mafia established itself in every major U.S. city. In astonishing eyewitness interviews, ex-mafia members, hired assassins, Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) informers and top bosses give first-hand accounts of their exploits. Equally chilling are the face-to-camera testimonies by men who knew notorious gangsters such as Al Capone, Lucky Luciano, Bugsy Siegel and Meyer Lansky.

The first programme, "All in the Family", investigates the structure of the mafia "families". Who are their members? How are they initiated? What are their life styles, their allegiances? What are the commandments and the codes which govern their lives and, sometimes, their deaths? Jimmy "The Weasel" Fratianno, Joey Cantalupo and Gerry DeNono are among the one-time mafiosi who have turned informer for the FBI and who now reveal the secrets of the family for Crime Inc.

The Oscar Film

Another highlight of the week's schedule is the "Oscar Film", screened at 10.15 on Thursday. This excellent series is continued this week with "Sergeant York". Directed by the highly talented Howard Hawks, it stars Gary Cooper, Walter Brennan and Joan Leslie and was the film which won the ever-popular Cooper his first Oscar. It tells the true story of Alvin York, a backwoods pacifist who became one of the most decorated soldiers of the First World War. The first half documents York's rural upbringing with simplicity and charm, but the second half, the war, degenerates quickly and grotesquely.

Another reason for turning down that Thursday evening dinner invitation is "Travelling Man", at 9.10. This gripping series is not only tautly constructed and realistically scripted, but it is also enhanced by one of the best musical scores for a long time. If you have missed it so far, don't be discouraged that you join the story half-way through. Each episode is a complete tale in itself, while advancing the central story of the ex-policeman who, released from jail, to which he was sent on false drugs charges, searches for both his missing son and the men who "stitched him up", while at the same time avoiding their own vicious designs on his person.

Literary classics are often notoriously difficult to transfer to the screen and Jane Austen is no exception. The intricate subtlety of her writing and the lightness of her

irony are almost impossible to transpose from the printed page. However, "Mansfield Park", (Monday at 9.10) is after a shaky start, gathering momentum and proving very watchable. It has fine sets and superb acting, while young Henry Crawford looks the epitome of the Regency rake. Sir Thomas Bertram does not seem at all pleased to discover his beloved library has been turned into a theatre, and for those of you who find your feet itching to kick the loathsome Mrs. Norris off the screen, do not dismay, she will get her just desserts.

Culture is also served by the Wednesday programme on classical music, "Sounds Magnificent", (8.30). This week's subject is Tchaikovsky, with special attention paid to his sixth symphony, "The Pathétique". For years Tchaikovsky has been frowned on by the musical establishment for the most illogical of reasons because he is a truly popular composer. His music is direct in its appeal, tuneful, and highly emotional. "The Pathétique" was his last composition, first performed barely a week before his mysterious and tragic death. Let us just hope that Andre Previn sticks to the point and resists his tendency to chatter lazily.

Comedy, drama

The rest of the week's viewing is a good mixture of comedy and drama, old favourites and new series. Tonight (Saturday) has "Tales of the Unexpected" at 8.30. This week's episode is "Clerical Error". With highly respected Ralph Standish just dead and buried, his son Paul is shocked to receive a letter claiming that the dead man owed a large sum of money and was hiding a shady secret. Also tonight, at 10.10 there is a feature film, "Love is a Many Splendored Thing", starring William Holden and Jennifer Jones. It tells the story of a love affair between an American war correspondent and a glamorous Eurasian doctor. It would probably be wise to keep the tissues handy. The rest of the week gives us comedy in the 8.30 slot, with "Don't Wait Up" tomorrow (Sunday) starring Nigel Havers (remember him in "Chariots of

Fire") Monday has "Maggie Briggs", whose stunning voice alone makes this worthwhile. On Tuesday there is "Star of the Family". For me the "star" is not Jennie but her odd-ball brother Dougie, and this week his good school grades would appear to be related to his performances on the football field.

That old favourite "Three's Company" entertains us on Thursday. It is a pity that recent episodes seem obsessed with providing Jack with a stream of hopeful girlfriends. What seems to be a desperate attempt by the programme-makers to show that Jack is a normal healthy boy has rather spoilt a very witty variation on the eternal triangle. There are still plenty of laughs though and this week, Chrissy's wide-eyed country cousin Cindy turns up unexpectedly. Could she be even dumber than Chrissy? Finally, on Friday, the inimitable Ronnie Barker stars in "Open All Hours". This week nurse Gladys goads him into expanding and reorganising his business, but can he bear to spend the necessary money?

Soap slots

For lovers of soap-operas there is the "Onedin Line" on Friday at 10.20, while Monday at the same time gives us "The Yellow Rose" — Dallas with mud on its boots. I rather doubt that Japanese prison camps were quite as mild as portrayed in "Tenko", (Tuesday, 9.10). Apart from the odd bout of malaria and being shouted at by the guards, the biggest threat to the girls would seem to come from amongst themselves. This week Verna arranges an abortion for Dorothy. Miss Hasan is informed that Lieutenant Nakamura is to be replaced by the ruthless Captain Soto, and Sister Ulrica decides that she has had quite enough and wants to join a convent.

For those of you who enjoy "cops & robbers" tomorrow (Sunday) gives us another episode of "Remington Steele" at 10.10. The cranky couple, ably assisted by the indomitable Mildred, always seem to find themselves in the most delightfully improbable situations. I suspect that tomorrow their own particular brand of humour, romance and adventure will be more of a relief than usual after the sordid real-life villainy of "Crime Inc.". Tuesday at 10.10 gives us another odd couple.



Jimmy 'The Weasel' Fratianno

"Hardcastle and McCormick", the retired judge, who, assisted by an ex-con racing driver, hunts down those evil-doers who managed to walk free from his court. Full of fistcuffs and fast driving. If you enjoy a more "who-dunnit" approach, this Friday at 9.10 serves up the superb Angela Lansbury as the lady detective writer who gets involved with real-life murders. In "Murder She Wrote". This week, the Californian Miss Marple figure appears in the first part of a two-week puzzle, "The Murder of Sherlock Holmes".

Finally, I must say a word about "Hotel", (Wednesday at 10.10). I don't know about you, but I hope I never have to stay there. The manager, Peter, seems to spend all his time gazing intently at one of his endless strings of long-lost loves, while the rest of the bouquy, smiling staff devote themselves exclusively to about three guests! This week Mrs. Cabot becomes addicted to pain-killers, an irresponsible divorced father must deal with his children and an ex-songwriting team is re-united. As usual, I'll be glued!

Nabulsi tours Tafila district,

TAFILA (J.T.) — Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment Hamdullah Al Nabulsi Thursday made an inspection tour of Tafila region accompanied by Dr. Abdullah Al Akayleh, parliament member representing the Tafila district at the Lower House, and other officials.

Final preparations underway for Salt municipal elections

SALT (J.T.) — Final arrangements are underway in Salt for municipal elections due to take place on Jan. 30. Balqa Governor Mohammad Al Khatib has called the 20 candidates for a meeting in his office during which he briefed them on the measures being taken to ensure smooth voting.

Mr. Khatib said that nine committees have been set up to count the votes which will be deposited at the local secondary school. The candidates have formed themselves into two blocs; one headed by the incumbent mayor Abdul Razzak Nsour and the other is led by Abdul Razzak Al Hiyasat.

JORDAN ENGINEERS ASSOCIATION

NOTICE
TO NON JORDANIAN ENGINEER
AND FOREIGN CONSULTANTS

Jordan Engineers Association draws Attention to all Non Jordanian Engineers Who practice Engineering Profession in all categories and sites and all Foreign Consulting Offices that Association law stipulates a fine of J.D 50 from persons and J.D 500 from offices who have the credentials to register in the Association and does not do so.

The fine is doubled in case of repetition. All persons and consulting offices concerned are requested to contact the Association to fill the forms and produce The necessary documents for registration. Failure to do so may result in referring the concerned to courts of law according to articles (91) and (92) of the Jordan Engineers Association law.

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الشركة الأردنية للإنظمة الإلكترونية

هذه المناسبة السعيدة لتقديم للائحة

السيد طلال أبوغزالة

أهم القضايا والتحديات التي تواجه المجتمع الأردني، وكيفية التغلب عليها

المقروءات والعروض والتقديمات الخاصة بالجمعية

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العالمية التي تشرف على برامج الأبحاث، وتطويرها وتقديمها للأفراد والهيئات الحكومية والخاصة

والأفراد والهيئات الحكومية والخاصة

أياها هذه المؤسسة، باعتبارها الجمعية CPT

السيد طلال أبوغزالة



ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Friday's

Al Ra'i: Manipulating Arabs' disunity

ISRAELI FOREIGN Minister Yitzhak Shamir has declared that for the Arabs to make peace with Israel they have to renounce their ties with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and forget their dreams of returning to the borders that existed between them and Israel before the occupation of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. This means that Israel wants the Arabs to forget about the Palestine problem and to forget about their rights in Palestine which means total capitulation to the Israeli enemy.

Israel is thus consecrating the no-war no-peace situation in the region because it realises that the Arabs can never accept its terms and conditions and give up their rights for which they have been fighting so long. But Israel also realises that the Arabs are weak and disunited and, therefore, they can not do anything to change the situation.

For this reason Israel continues to pursue an arrogant position and carry out its plans, unhindered by any force and backed by the United States, its strategic ally in the region. For the Arabs, they have to realise that the march of peace cannot start unless they unify their ranks and pool their resources. Their relations with the PLO is equal to their ties with their own rights and their future, and therefore they have now to do everything possible to thwart Israeli plans.

Sawt Al Shaab: Majority should hold summit

AS THE present situation continues in the Arab World and as the Arab leaders continue to show their indifference to the events in their region, the chances of holding an Arab summit seem to be fading quickly. Though many Arab leaders realise the only way for a frank dialogue to reach agreement on joint action is through a meeting at the highest level among Arab leaders, it seems that some of them are afraid or hesitant to take steps for such a summit. Their stand is quite strange and we find it difficult to understand.

Some Arabs say that the summit might deepen divisions and perpetuate differences, but they forget that such a meeting is designed to solve them and such a summit will be an opportunity for the leaders to review their stands vis a vis the situation prevailing in their region. We regard those refusing to join the summit as adopting a clumsy and destructive attitude towards the joint Arab action; and they thus take a stand hostile to Arab solidarity.

We call on Arab states which do not refuse the summit but are hesitating to hold it to join the majority and help the Arab Nation to take a decision which would affect the destiny of their future generations. Failing that, they too will be shirking their responsibility and failing their own people.

Thursday's

Al Ra'i: No foreigners can give us back our rights

WE ARE not concerned about Israel's rejoicing following the inauguration of President Reagan's second term in office. Israel's reaction is natural because Reagan has been all along collaborating with the Israelis, helping them to achieve their goals.

We are really concerned to remind the Arabs that U.S. policies vis a vis the Middle East remain unchanged and there has been no indication at all that Washington will embark on a balanced attitude as it had been hoped to do by some Arab leaders. We should not expect any positive and balanced policies towards the Middle East and should rather rely on our own strength and resources.

The Arabs should not wait for miracles to come from overseas. They must not count on the White House, the European Community or the Socialist International to solve their problems but should rather work towards resolving their own differences and try to unify their positions with the aim of confronting the common challenges posed by their common enemy.

As long as the Arab situation remains weak and the Arab governments remain divided and at loggerheads, failing to meet at a summit level to try to end their weakness and build up their own power, there can be no hope in other nations to save us and there can be no return of Arab rights at the hands of other nations.

Al Dustour: Arab differences serve Israel

ISRAELI FOREIGN Minister Yitzhak Shamir has reiterated Israel's refusal of the idea of holding an international conference to resolve the Middle East issue. He does not want the Soviet Union to have any role in this region and wants the issue unresolved so that Israel can have the opportunity to carry out its schemes in the occupied Arab lands.

No doubt Israel has been backed in its position by the United States, which also does not want to give the Soviet Union any role in the region and does not want to jeopardise Israel's plans in the occupied regions. Israel does not give any respect or regard to the views of other nations like the Europeans which have begun to realise the real situation in the area and become inclined to accept the idea of an international meeting to resolve the region's problems.

What is helping Israel to adhere to its intransigent stand is not only the United States but the Arabs themselves who are deeply split and are always in disagreement even about their own future and their own interests. Israel finds or weak Arab Nation whose leaders are inefficient and unable to unify their will or action in the face of the dangers posed by their enemies, and so it will continue to pursue its aggressive policies without any fear.

Sawt Al Shaab: Iraq intensifies siege

WE APPRECIATE the decision by the Arab peace mediation committee calling on Iran to stop the war or else it would face the prospect of Arab countries reconsidering their relations with the Tehran regime. But this is not a decisive factor that can end the war and stop bloodshed after more than four years of futile fighting.

Iran has failed to heed peace calls by Arab states, Islamic and international organisations and, therefore, it can only understand the language of force. For this reason, Iraq has been taking all measures to force Iran to accept peace. Iraq has now tightened its blockade around Kharg Island so as to stop Iranian oil from being exported with the purpose of weakening Iran economically and so help to bring about a speedy end to the war.

Iraq has not been discouraged by the general weakness in the Arab World and divisions plaguing Arab governments and has determined to put an end to the war with all its might, relying on its own power and the will of its people.

Cyprus talks' failure shows U.N. limitations

By Michael Littlejohns
Reuter

UNITED NATIONS — With less than two years left as United Nations Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar has yet to record an important political success.

His predecessor, Kurt Waldheim, spent 10 years in office with no notable diplomatic achievement to his credit.

Have member states exaggerated the secretary-general's capacity for mediation? The question arises since the failure of Mr. Perez de Cuellar's latest diplomatic exercise, on Cyprus.

Talks under his auspices between leaders of the ethnic Greek and Turkish communities in the island collapsed, in part because they could not agree even on procedures he thought both approved after lengthy separate consultations with them late last year.

He has invited them to come back next month, but there is doubt whether the Turkish Cypriot side will agree.

To those who felt he should have made sure in advance that Greek Cypriot leader Spyros Kyprianou and his Turkish Cypriot counterpart Rauf Denktaş agreed at least on terms of reference, Mr. Perez de Cuellar said: "I had enough elements for convening a meeting. I am prepared, for some people, to be a scapegoat, but I don't mind."

He insisted that the gap between the two sides was "never so narrow as it is now" and that "certain basic things" were agreed, though more substantive settlement was elusive. He also stressed he was not a mediator in the Cyprus dispute but had simply exercised the "good offices" of the secretary-general.

He played that role, also unsuccessfully, during the 1982 war between Britain and Argentina over the Falkland Islands. Aides say a compromise was tantalisingly close. Each country has blamed the other for the fact that one was not agreed.

As for full-scale mediation, the

secretary-general may undertake that only when all parties to a dispute are prepared to accept him in that capacity.

As the U.N. prepares to celebrate its 40th birthday in 1985, public perceptions of the world body in many nations, especially the United States, are perhaps more negative than ever before.

Mr. Perez de Cuellar has warned in a series of reports against a drift towards direct bilateral dealings, saying that countries were quick enough to turn to the U.N. for help when bilateralism failed, but that by then it was often too late.

Still, he said in a recent interview, the U.N. would not end like The League of Nations in the dustbin of history.

"The powerful nations of the world will come to realise once more that... the U.N. is very useful indeed as a face-saving device, a problem-solving mechanism, a forum wherein to conduct not only multilateral but also bilateral dip-

lomacy..." he said.

Perhaps the last time the U.N. saved face was at the time of the Cuban missile crisis in 1962. The Soviet Union backed off, not because of threats by the United States, they said, but because of an appeal by Secretary-General U Thant. If they are speaking the truth, it is a rare U.N. success.

Mr. Perez de Cuellar, who has just turned 65 and has been in diplomacy since he joined the Peruvian Foreign Ministry at the age of 20, asserts that failure does not disappoint him.

"To keep doing this job," he said last month, "one must heed Albert Camus's advice: Act as if you absolutely believe that justice, happiness, peace will prevail even when you are plagued with doubts in this regard."

Mr. Perez de Cuellar begins a 22-day, six-nation tour of Asia Saturday which is expected to include talks in Thailand and Vietnam on the problem of Kampuchea.



Special envoy Pisani works to mediate in New Caledonia

By Angus Macswan
Reuter

NOUMEA — Edgard Pisani, France's special envoy mediating between New Caledonia's white settlers and independence-seeking Melanesians, says of the conflict: "We have to manage the revolution we cannot avoid."

He arrived in the Pacific territory on Dec. 4 following militant action by indigenous Kanaks to end 131 years of French colonial rule. On Jan. 12, with the death toll 19 and settlers rioting in the streets of the capital, he declared a state of emergency, which the French National Assembly decided this week to extend until the end of June.

"It is not a pleasant job," Mr. Pisani said of his role in an interview with Reuters. "But when the president of the republic asked me if I was ready to go it was not for me a question — it was a duty. I had no hesitation."

Mr. Pisani, 66, said he aims to persuade the French here, many of them rightwingers opposed to the Socialist government of President Francois Mitterrand, that independence for New Caledonia is inevitable.

"We have a sentence in French literature which is very important to me in this respect," he said, quoting the 18th-century writer Rivarol: "We have to manage the revolution we cannot avoid."

Mr. Pisani proposes that a referendum be held in July asking New Caledonians to choose between remaining part of France or independence in association with France, in which case French troops would remain stationed here.

The Kanaks fear they would lose a poll as they now make up only 43 per cent of the 145,000 population after immigration from France, Asia and other French Pacific territories.

Mr. Pisani hopes enough settlers believe independence is inevitable to make the outcome of the poll favour an end to French rule.

"You have now starting among the New Caledonian people the

question of how and when and no longer the question of if," he said.

Reacting to a statement by him this week that independence in association with France was the only solution for the territory, the territorial assembly where anti-independence supporters hold the majority said in a statement: "His partisan and wounding remarks make him unfit to carry out his mission."

Mr. Pisani was born in Tunis. His father was a French mining engineer. He studied law, philosophy and political science at the Sorbonne in Paris before the outbreak of World War II.

As a resistance fighter he was captured by the Nazis and condemned to death but escaped. In 1944 he was working in Paris to liberate the city.

"I met (Mitterrand) for the first time on the 25th of August, 1944 when he came into the Paris police prefecture where I was, to fight the Germans," he said. "We have never been friends but we have a good relationship."

A career in politics and government service took him from involvement in Africa's colonial upheavals to a seat in the European Parliament in 1978, when he was president of its economic and monetary committee.

He served on former West German Chancellor Willy Brandt's North-South Commission from 1978 to 1980 and was a member of the European Community's development problems commission in 1981.

He said he did not come to New Caledonia with a solution based on his African experience, but "My mind has been shaped by Africa."

He spends his days in the heavily-guarded French commission here trying to find middle ground between New Caledonian leaders before Feb. 1, when he will present a report on the independence talks to Mr. Mitterrand.

"We have to set up a permanently multi-racial society," Mr. Pisani said.



U.S. strongly supports U.N. programmes

UNITED NATIONS — Even though the United States has withdrawn from UNESCO, U.S. support for the United Nations and its related agencies is still strong, said Ambassador Alan Keyes, U.S. representative to the U.N. Economic and Social Council.

In a recent interview, Mr. Keyes pointed to U.S. funding for U.N. organisations and activities.

The United States increased its contributions to two U.N. agencies — the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the U.N. Development Programme (UNDP) — by \$30 million last year, he noted, and increased its voluntary contributions to U.N. agencies as a whole by \$43 million.

For those agencies that depend on voluntary contributions from U.N. member nations, strong U.S. support continues, Mr. Keyes said, recalling that U.S. pledges in 1983 totaled \$246 million and '84 pledges totaled 289 million.

The U.S. withdrawal from UNESCO does not affect the overall assessed contribution of the United States to the United Nations and the agencies that are funded from that assessment, he pointed out. The United States currently pays 25 per cent of the 156-nation organisation's regular budget.

Moreover, he said, the United States was the first to respond to the U.N. call for international

support for famine-stricken Ethiopia and nine other food-short African countries. The U.S. pledged one-half of the estimated three million tons of emergency food aid needed.

"Our clear willingness and desire to see the United Nations play a major, coordinating role in aiding the stricken African countries in the present economic situation underscores our belief in the important role played by the United Nations and other multilateral organisations," Mr. Keyes said.

In fact, he argued, the main point about current U.S. relations with the United Nations is that the United States is "taking the United Nations more seriously, and seriously appraising the work of each (agency) in meeting its goals."

The United States has demonstrated its willingness in the past to contribute to projects in which it believes, despite differences it might have with the operating agency. In October 1984, for example, U.S. Ambassador to UNESCO Jean Gerard announced a one million dollar contribution to the UNESCO trust fund for the preservation of Moenjodaro, the legendary Bronze Age site in Pakistan. And Ambassador Gerard said that the United States would make a further contribution of \$980,000 to Moenjodaro in 1985.

The United States also announced in October that it is in-

creasing its contribution to the U.N. Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA) by 21 per cent in 1985.

U.S. Representative Harold Fleming said that while the United States was distressed at the inordinate amount of time and effort devoted to political issues at the International Population Conference in Mexico City in August, the United States was pleased with the recommendations that came out of the conference.

"In understanding the importance we place on international population activities, the United States will increase its overall funding for population programmes in 1985... from \$240 million to 290 million," Mr. Fleming said. "Of this amount, the UNFPA is expected to receive \$46 million in 1985... In fact, the United States most likely will contribute some 30 per cent of the projected income of UNFPA for 1985."

The United States is either a founding member or an early participant in the overwhelming majority of U.N. agencies and activities. In many cases the United States originally contributed as much as 50 per cent of the funding. While that percentage dropped as more countries joined the United Nations and its affiliates, the United States remains the largest contributor to most of the organisations, financing 20 or more per cent of their operating

budgets.

In November at the U.N. pledging conference for development, Ambassador Keyes reported that U.S. voluntary contributions to all funds and programmes in the U.N. system will top \$500 million in 1985.

For example, Mr. Keyes said: — \$165 million has been earmarked for the U.N. Development Programme;

— UNICEF will receive \$53.5 million in 1985 from the United States, which is also planning to contribute a portion of a 25-million-dollar U.S. Child Survival Fund to multinational organisations such as UNICEF. The U.S. government has also supported UNICEF's emergency programmes — such as \$13.2 million in 1982 to Lebanon relief and one million dollars in October 1984 for Ethiopia.

— The U.N. Fund for Drug Abuse Control (UNFDAC) will receive U.S. financing of \$2.5 million in 1985. Since the agency was established in 1971, the United States has provided over 50 per cent of its funds.

— The United States is the largest financial contributor to U.N. peace-keeping forces. Almost half of the pledges for the U.N. Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP) have come from the United States.

— The United States also participates in the Voluntary Fund for the U.N. Decade for Women — USA.

House of Lords opens its doors to television

By Harvey Morris
Reuter

LONDON — A six-month experiment to televise debates of Britain's House of Lords which began Thursday is being closely watched by politicians to see if it will revive public interest in the activities of Parliament.

Members of the Upper House believe public reaction to the experiment might determine whether or not the House of Commons, where most of the work of the two-chamber parliament is done, will eventually open its doors to the television cameras.

A record number of 50 lords had put their names down to speak in Thursday's debate on government economic policy. The British television networks have been given a relatively free rein in organising coverage.

Cameramen recording events from fixed positions around the ornately gilded chamber have, however, been asked to dress soberly and wear collars and ties in keeping with the solemnity of the house.

There has been mixed reaction to radio broadcasts of both chambers that began in 1978. Critics say they tend to exaggerate the natural rowdiness of the commons and make it sound, in the words of Conservative peer Lord Home, like "a bear garden".

Proceedings in the House of Lords are traditionally more sedate than in The Commons. Peers deliberate under the watchful gaze of the Lord Chancellor, Lord Hailsham, seated on a scarlet wood-lam, but he has no power to intervene.

The Lords is the last major legislature in the world to retain the hereditary principle, though

members born into the nobility are now outnumbered by life peers, a category created in 1958 as a recognition of service in politics and public life.

Long-standing demands by the opposition Labour Party for abolition of the Upper House have been muted in recent years as the lords used its powers to check unpopular legislation by the government of Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher.

Using their strictly limited powers to revise or delay government bills, peers forced about 50 major amendments in legislation last year.

A total of 1,202 aristocrats and life peers are classed as members of the Upper House. Only 932 have writs to attend — others are minors or have leave of absence — and of these only about 300 are regular attenders. Conservative peers are tech-

nically outnumbered by those who support opposition parties or who sit as "crossbenchers" or independents.

Speakers addressing Thursday's televised debate included Deputy Prime Minister Lord Whitelaw, former Conservative Party Chairman Lord Thornercroft and one of the 24 Church of England bishops entitled to attend, Hugh Montefiore of Birmingham.

Membership ranges from former trade union leaders to noblemen whose titles go back to the 13th century.

Defenders of the hereditary principle say that it brings young blood into a chamber where the average age is around 65.

The proceedings and lay-out of the house, built in elaborate medieval Gothic style in the mid-19th century, are virtually unknown to most Britons.

LETTERS

To the Editor

WE IN Jordan are relatively poor in natural resources. At the same time we are in need of a lot of services. Our national resources cannot cover efficiently the cost of the needed services. Why don't we start a collective fund to cover up the deficit?

The idea of this particular proposal came from the following paragraph which appeared in an article in the Jordan Times on Oct. 6, 1984.

"The Ministry of Agriculture complains that nearly 35,000 trees in Jordan are lost every year through negligence and the irresponsible behaviour of people who cause fires in forests, woods and national parks."

It is proposed to finance this fund only and definitely only from contributions by couples to be wed or newly wed. This contribution would be in lieu of the lavish wedding parties we are accustomed to or otherwise a very small addition to it.

No other contributions from any other source will be accepted. A "Wedding Certificate of Contribution" will be issued to the couple.

The Fund will only finance the purchase and upkeep of simple equipment for fighting fires in our forests, such as shovels, sand buckets, warning signs, etc. The fund will attend to a single forest at a time, and when work is done in that forest, we move to another.

When work is completed in all forest areas, the fund could approach another target, perhaps to "an ambulance for each group of remote villages" scheme.

This is collective work, for collective benefits, financed collectively and, as a result, will be protected by everybody and will lead to collective pride.

Muhammed Abu Sand,
Amman.

Spreading 'desertification' underlies famine

By Philip M. Boffey

WASHINGTON — The famine coursing through Africa poses an immediate crisis of vast proportions. But underlying the tragedy is a more deep-seated problem that threatens the future of arid lands throughout the world. It is "desertification," the insidious, spreading process that is turning many of the world's marginal fields and pastures into wastelands.

Seven years ago a United Nations conference, responding to an earlier drought in a wide belt of Africa south of the Sahara, adopted a sweeping plan to reverse desertification and halt the process completely by 2000.

Since then, most experts agree, very little significant action has been taken and the problem has worsened.

"Little progress has been made since 1977 in controlling the problem," said Dr. Harold H. Dregne, former director of the International Centre for Arid and

Semi-Arid Land Studies at Texas Tech. University in Lubbock. Dr. Dregne evaluated desertification programmes for the United Nations last year.

"The global threat posed by desertification, far from diminishing, has actually increased in severity," Dr. Mostafa K. Tolba, executive director of the U.N. Environment Programme, said last year.

Desertification, a process in which the biological productivity of land is sharply degraded by human abuse and natural factors, is an important underlying cause of the famine that has killed hundreds of thousands of Africans in recent years. It is often overlooked by commentators who focus on the immediate cause of the famine, a prolonged drought.

Drought and desertification are intertwined. Progressive desertification over the centuries has rendered the whole region more vulnerable to drought. And drought, in turn, is accelerating the

degradation of the land and increasing the rate of desertification.

Particularly worrisome, some experts say, are indications that desertification feeds upon itself and becomes difficult to reverse. According to one respected meteorological hypothesis, loss of vegetation in desertified areas increases the likelihood of future droughts through a complex series of biological and atmospheric interactions. As vegetation is removed, the Earth's surface reflects more sunlight into the atmosphere, changing the energy balance in such a way that dry air sinks toward the surface and promotes aridity.

According to another informed view, natural forces made it unlikely that desertified areas south of the Sahara will recover on their own even after the rains come, as prevailing wind and water patterns flow from north to south, carrying seeds farther to the south rather than back north into the desertified regions. Rejuvenation

of these areas will thus require an active seeding programme by countries already reeling from poverty, hunger, disease and internal strife and desperately short of trained workers.

"In exceptionally fragile ecosystems, such as those on the desert margins, the loss of biological productivity through the degradation of plant, animal, soil and water resources can easily become irreversible, and permanently reduce their capacity to support human life," the United Nations warns. "Desertification is a self-accelerating process, feeding on itself, and as it advances, rehabilitation costs rise exponentially."

Desertification describes a wide range of ecological changes. In some cases, the term refers to degradation severe enough to produce a desert. In most cases, it simply means a sharp loss of productivity.

Moderate desertification, according to U.N. experts, means the land has lost up to 25 per cent of its

biological production capability. Very severe desertification means it has lost more than 50 per cent.

Desertification can be caused by natural events, human activities or, most often, a combination of both. Not much can be done about nature, so international attention has been focused for the past decade or more on human activities.

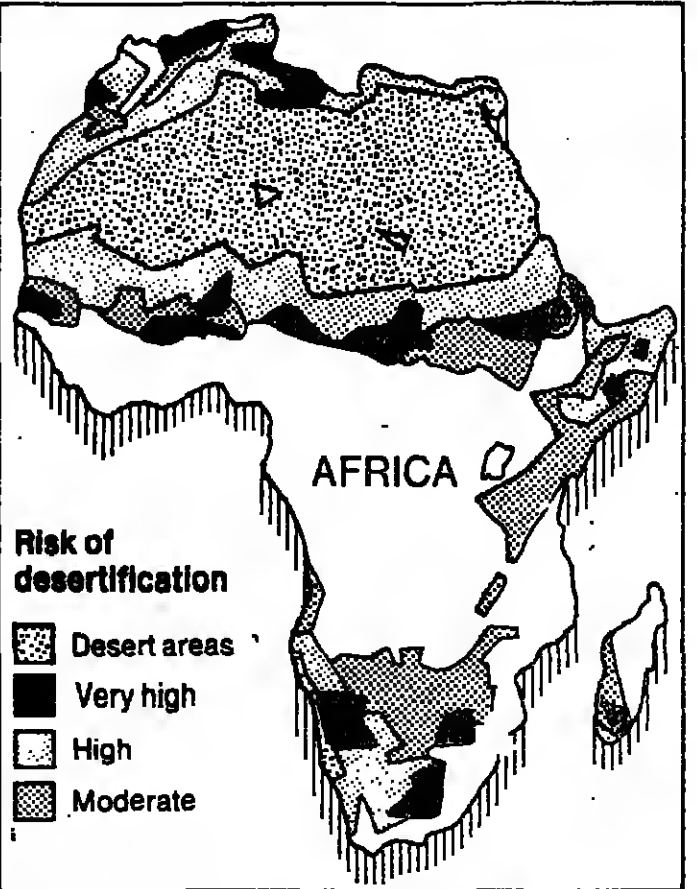
"The main cause is not drought, as many still believe, but human overexploitation of lands through overcultivation, overgrazing, poor irrigation practices and deforestation," Dr. Tolba said last year.

Such overexploitation is generally caused by population growth that exceeds the carrying capacity of the land or by an influx of people onto marginal lands. As the population builds, farmers have to till poorer and poorer lands to provide enough food. They reduce the fallow periods needed to regenerate the soil; they cut down trees for firewood or building materials, thereby increasing wind and water erosion; and their cattle eat ground vegetation so that the exposed land bakes hard under the sun and can no longer absorb and store water.

Soil temperatures rise, often killing the micro-organisms needed to spur plant growth. Dust blown up from the denuded land scours the remaining plants or buries them. When the rains come, they run off quickly or evaporate.

"People who are not familiar with the character of these systems tend to think the problems developed quite recently," said Jeffrey A. Gritzner, an environmental geographer at the National Academy of Sciences who has worked in the Sahel. "But you can go through the literature for five centuries and just see the vegetation disappearing."

The current famine was set up, in a sense, by greater-than-normal rainfall in the 1950s, which encouraged an expansion of humans and livestock into marginal lands — New York Times.



Big is beautiful in forest products

Pulp and paper making is one of the world's most capital-intensive industries, so you have to be big to succeed. Kevin Dore reports on the Swedish merger that has created Europe's largest forest products company.

STOCKHOLM — "Size counts in the forest products industry," says Mr. Bo Berggren emphatically.

Acting on that belief, the managing director of Stora Kopparberg, the second largest Swedish forestry group, is about to transform his company into Europe's biggest pulp and paper manufacturer with the SKr3.6 billion (\$418 million) takeover of Billerud, one of its main domestic rivals.

Pulp and paper making is one of the world's most capital-intensive industries. The installation of a single new paper machine costs around SKr1 billion, and there is a clear belief in the Swedish industry that in the future only the biggest companies will be able to survive on the international scene and cope with the capital demands.

"To compete with the huge American companies in the future we must be more complete as companies and stronger financially," says Professor Ingemar Croon, a leading forest industry consultant in Sweden. "It has long been said that eventually we will only have four or five big forest companies in Sweden."

Svenska Cellulosa (SCA), the largest in the Swedish industry before the latest deal, with sales in 1983 of SKr9.8 billion, is itself the result of a merger of several smaller companies in northern Sweden during the 1950s. SCA too has just embarked on its biggest-ever capital spending programme, with investments of SKr4 billion planned in the three years to 1986.

The addition of a new 210,000-tonnes-a-year newsprint machine at Ortviken in northern Sweden will alone cost close to SKr1.2 billion. With a total capacity of 600,000 tonnes a year, the mill will be one of the biggest newsprint plants in the world.

The next phase of the shake-up in the Swedish pulp and paper industry has been a long time coming, but none the less the Stora Kopparberg/Billerud deal took the industry by surprise. Sweden is the world's third largest exporter of pulp and paper after Canada and the U.S.

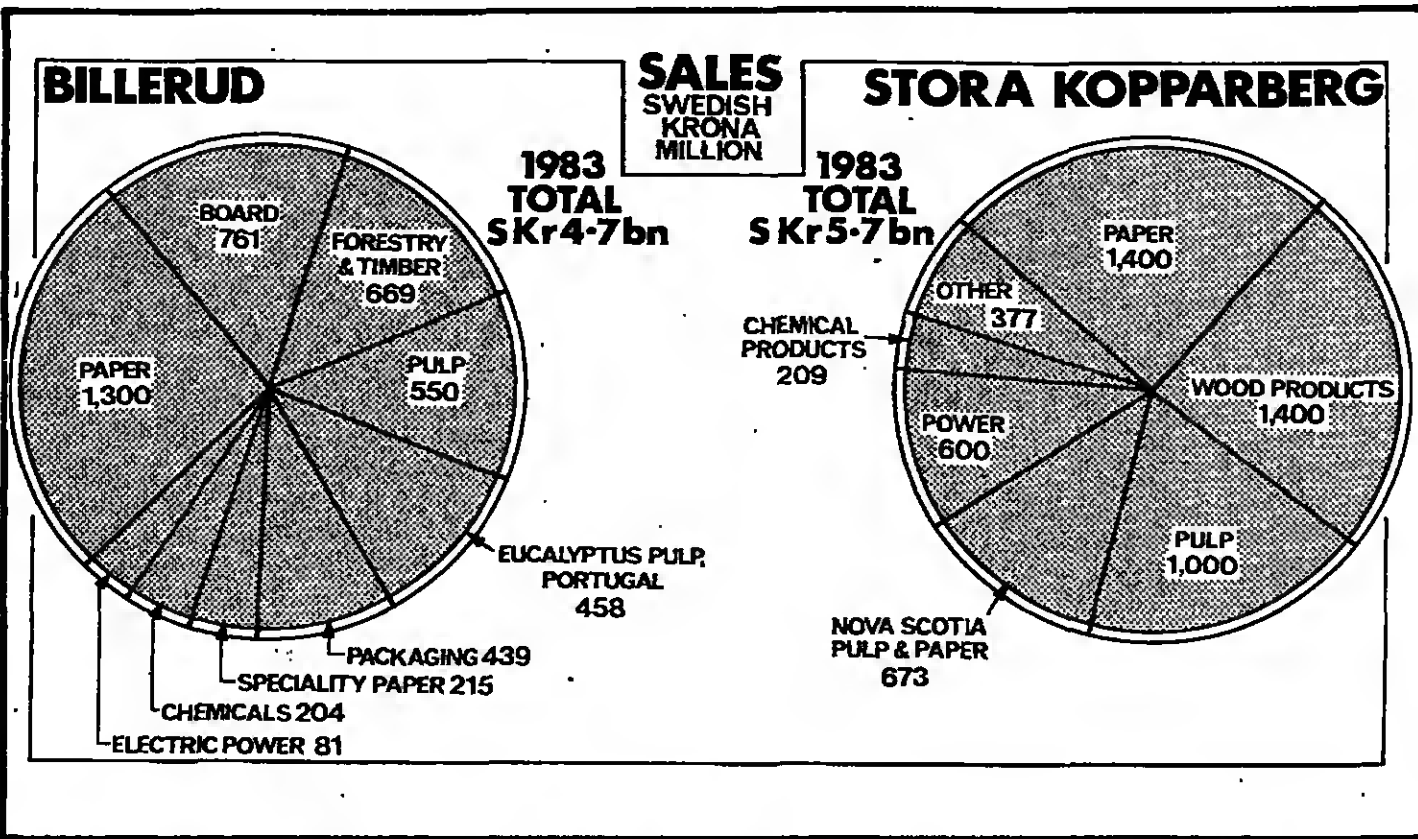
The first that even Aders Wall, chairman of Billerud and normally one of the fleetest financial operators in Sweden, heard of the deal was at a quarter to midnight on Sunday, Sept. 23. Trading in the companies' shares was suspended on the Monday and the deal was signed on the Tuesday afternoon.

Stora Kopparberg had acquired a reputation for being "solid and traditional but rather dull," admits Mr. Berggren. It appeared weighed down by history. It claims to be the world's oldest joint stock company, with deeds on its share transactions going back to the 13th century. Its copper mines — the name means Great Copper Mountain — financed Sweden's imperial wars in the 17th century, and for decades it has been one of the key companies in the Wallenberg group, a showpiece of Dr. Marcus Wallenberg, the legendary Swedish banker who died two years ago.

Earlier this year, all that began to change, however. Stora Kopparberg was the centre of a power struggle between the Wallenberg interests and Volvo, Sweden's biggest industrial group.

Mr. Peter Wallenberg, the new head of the family, succeeded in buying out Volvo's 25 per cent share, but only at a heavy price.

The deal was carried out by Wallenberg's two quoted investment companies, Investor and Providentia, and it is their shareholders who have had to foot the bill. Mr. Berggren, managing director of Stora Kopparberg only



since last April, has been under pressure to perform and show that the deal with Volvo was not an expensive mistake. The Billerud takeover has been his spectacular response.

Despite its staid image, Stora Kopparberg has gone through an extraordinary transformation in less than a decade. Until the mid-1970s it was more a steel and mining company than a forest products concern. In a combination of luck and good judgment it pulled out of steel, however, shortly before the industry was engulfed in crisis, and in 1976 acquired Bergvik and Ala, a company with forest holdings almost as large as its own.

In the early 1980s it tried to buy its way into another of its smaller rivals, Iggesund, but was beaten to the punch by MoDo. Sweden's third largest forest products group, which bought out Stora's shares in October last year.

It has been a long wait for a deal of the Stora Kopparberg/Billerud

size, but the Swedish industry has not been idle. Its mills are among the most competitive in the world after a programme of drastic structural changes and modernisation. "Probably more old and non-profitable units have been closed down in Sweden in recent years than in any other country," claims Mr. Bo Berggren, managing director of the Swedish pulp and paper association.

The number of pulp plants shrank from 98 to 59 from 1970 to 1982, while at the same time total capacity rose from 8.9 to 9.5 million tonnes. There has been a similar but less spectacular streamlining of paper and board production.

With many of those investments now completed and helped by the Swedish devaluation and the world recovery, the profits of Sweden's pulp and paper makers have been soaring.

Stora Kopparberg and Billerud are no exception. Stora increased its profits by 80 per cent last year

and expects a further leap of 80 per cent this year to around SKr930 million. Billerud recently announced a 52 per cent jump in profits in the first seven months of 1984.

The new group will certainly dominate the Swedish forest industry and most of its products, apart from timber and pulp, are complementary rather than competitive.

Stora Kopparberg has concentrated chiefly on printing paper and fine paper in both Europe and North America. Earlier this year it bought the Newton Falls fine paper mill in New York state. The emphasis of the Billerud operations has, meanwhile, been in packaging. It is the European leader in sack paper, liquid packaging board and fluting.

Together the two companies will have manufacturing operations in 12 countries outside Sweden. Stora Kopparberg has a substantial pulp and newsprint

operation in Nova Scotia, Canada, while Billerud has developed as a market leader in the expanding field of eucalyptus pulp. It owns 71 per cent of a 200,000-tonnes-a-year eucalyptus pulp mill in Portugal.

The two companies have large forest holdings — around 3.4 million acres in central Sweden, with a high degree of self-sufficiency in the supply of wood raw material. At the same time both are financially sound, with substantial hidden reserves in their balance sheets. Stora Kopparberg alone estimates that its forests represent hidden reserves of at least SKr3.3 billion, while the hidden reserves in its hydroelectric power resources might amount to a further SKr4.8 billion.

The two companies appear to have the resources to make a heavy impact on the world industry. It is now up to Bo Berggren to show that it is size that counts — Financial Times news feature.

Sectarian violence still threatens India, Singh warns

NEW DELHI (R) — President Zail Singh said Friday India was still threatened by what he called a euth of sectarian violence.

Speaking on state-run television on the eve of a military parade marking Republic Day celebrations, India's 68-year-old Sikh president said communalism was the biggest obstacle to economic progress and political stability.

"Communal riots instigated by a mischievous few cause untold suffering and misery to large numbers of innocent people," Mr. Singh said.

"Before independence an accusing finger could be pointed at the foreign rulers for the scourge of communalism. After independence we have to ask ourselves why this malaise persists."

Elaborate security has been organised Saturday when the president and Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi review a parade of troops, tanks, bombers and fighters through the streets of New Delhi.

The Press Trust of India news agency said special security teams would check weapons before the parade to make sure no ammunition was carried.

Mr. Singh said the last year was a great trial for India. "Our federal policy was subjected to an acid test. The cult of violence culminated in the tragic assassination of our beloved Prime Minister Indira Gandhi," he said.

"Her untimely demise was traumatic for the nation. The people of India are fortunate that in spite of such a grave situation the country's political system, dynamic and resilient as it is, remained resolutely unshaken and our outlook unaltered."

Rajiv Gandhi was sworn in hours after his mother was murdered by two Sikh bodyguards last October. The government said this week that at least 2,717 people were killed in anti-Sikh violence triggered by the assassination.



President Singh

assassination. Last June at least 1,000 people were killed when Indira Gandhi ordered troops into the 'holy' Sikh shrine, the Golden Temple in Amritsar, to flush out Sikh extremists fighting for a separate nation in Punjab.

"It is painful to see that in the name of religion basic tenets and teachings are distorted by overzealous defenders of faith, giving birth to communalism," said Mr. Singh, India's first Sikh president.

He said 1984 ended on a happy note with peaceful national elections, which Mr. Gandhi won with a landslide victory.

Republic Day commemorates Jan. 26, 1950, when India's constitution came into force. Mr. Singh appealed to the people to remember the constitution's principles of "socialism, secularism and democracy."

"For centuries, we have spread the message of ahimsa (non-violence). I would like to call upon all citizens to generate an environment in which irrespective of faith, language or religion, mutual love and cooperation prevail," Mr. Singh said.

Some are greening the ocean floor for food

At first glance, seagrass appears useless. But it provides a home for valuable fish, prevents beach erosion and keeps water clear. A Jamaican experiment shows that it can be cost-effectively replanted.

By Carl Wint

KINGSTON, Jamaica — Jamaica has successfully replanted several meadows of seagrass.

At first glance, this hardly seems big news. Seagrass, which grows in shallow, tropical and temperate waters, cannot be eaten by humans or livestock. Why bother?

Not a seaweed, but a genuine flowering plant, related to the grasses which grow on land, seagrass offers several benefits to humans. It provides a habitat and feeding ground for hundreds of species of fish, crustaceans and molluscs; shrimp and lobsters depend on it. It helps control erosion of seabeds, and it traps particles of sediment, giving oceans the clear blue look like.

And, all around the world, these meadows are disappearing under the onslaught of various types of pollution such as heavy metals, sewage, oil, hot water from power stations and the silt stirred up by dredging operations which cloud the water so grass cannot get enough sunlight.

At present, large areas of the Caribbean have been completely denuded of seagrass, especially those near urban centres, according to Dr. Anita Thorhaug of Florida International University (FIU).

A \$170,000 "seagrass restoration project," here, directed by Dr. Thorhaug and financed by FIU, the U.S. Agency for International Development

(USAID) and the Jamaican government, covers 18 coastal sites and offers the first evidence that a developing nation can cost-effectively replant seagrass meadows.

Dr. Thorhaug said that the economic value of a hectare of seagrass was calculated in a 1981 U.N. report at \$212,500. As an acre of seagrass can be rehabilitated for \$500, "this is a sound investment," she said.

The project sought to determine which of the three types of seagrasses present in Jamaica survived better under adverse conditions and was more easily restored in polluted areas or after an industrial accident.

"This knowledge will not only help to reverse past damage but develop new techniques for preventing future damage to seagrass and the marine environment," Dr. Thorhaug said.

Success is expected to provide Jamaicans with more fish to eat, and also with employment opportunities in replanting the meadows. It will also show other ocean countries the way.

In her final report, just out, Dr. Thorhaug said that at each of the 18 sites, plots of three species of seagrass were tested, using different planting and anchoring techniques. Spring and fall planting success was also examined. It was found that "all three species of seagrasses proved capable of rehabilitating areas impacted by dredge and fill activities, as well as certain areas of urban impact."



Jamaican seagrass—the next step?

At sites affected by the hot water of power stations, only one species survived. Near cement plants, none of the species could be rehabilitated.

The best growth occurred at sites planted with plugs of grass 15 centimetres in diameter placed one metre apart. Within four months, a dense meadow covered the site, and local fishermen were commercially fishing the area again, Dr. Thorhaug said. She added that "the fish and invertebrates clearly returned rapidly into the planted seagrasses."

Local fishermen, most of them unemployed because fish had departed the grassless regions, were hired to collect, sort and

plant the grass. Many of them used scuba equipment.

Dr. Thorhaug recommended that USAID "use this project as a model for rehabilitating the nearshore environment in other coastal developing nations."

Her report also recommended that the Jamaican government adopt a "zero-loss policy" as regards seagrass in future coastal development. In other words, if a development destroys a meadow, one equally large should be planted elsewhere.

Also, the Jamaican government should use taxes and other incentives to encourage hotels and industry to replant seagrass. The government should also adopt a policy to protect seagrasses, especially near high erosion beach sites and critical fish nurseries.

The report noted that seagrass restoration had been done successfully in the United States, but the Jamaican tests were the first to show that grass could be regrown in areas of bauxite spills, thermal pollution from power stations and urban run-off.

The government is now studying the report and hoping to find the money to implement many of its recommendations. The project offers hope not only of sustaining the island's marine resources and improving tourist beaches, but of providing additional employment for the Jamaican people — Earthscan feature.



LIVING TOGETHER: Theme for Australia's bicentenary

Statieh wins inaugural Sports for All race

AMMAN — Mohammad Statieh Friday won the "Sports for All" national race; the first of its kind to be staged in Jordan. 2200 runners, males and females of all ages took part in the inaugural race held under the patronage of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan.

Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'd and senior officials from the Kingdom participated in the 5-km race. Statieh covered the distance in 15 minutes, 22 seconds.

Prince Ra'd, deputising for His Majesty, signalled the start of the race and presented trophies and medals to the top three in the ten categories at the end of the race.

Minister of Youth Hani Al-Khateeb presented Prince Ra'd a trophy on behalf of the Jordanian Olympic Information Association (JOIA), sponsors of the race in cooperation with the Jordanian Amateur Athletics Association (JAAA), and the National Paints Company.

Upon awarding the prize, Dr. Al-Khateeb delivered a statement in which he praised the JOIA and expressed hopes that this event, which he described as a pioneering step aiming to bless the necessity of sport for individuals, that it would be held each year. He added that the patronage of the Crown Prince to this event and the participation of Prince Ra'd represented the political leadership interests for sports and athletics.

The contestants who were divided into ten categories according to their age and sex started from the JOIA headquarters in Amman Sports City area at 10 a.m. on a 4.9 kilometre route round the Sports City complex.

The categories were: Men; under 20, 20-29, 30-39, 40-49 and over 50. Women: under 20 and over 20 years.

50 local referees were posted along the route at ten different points and five control points where they exerted great efforts in order to secure easy handling of the race.

Results of the race according to each category were as follows: under 10: Sami Nawaf first, Ehab Mohammad Juma'a second and Badr Al Deen Gharybeh came third. 20-29: Yussef Mohammad Mure'e first, Ibrahim Abu Al Sheikh second and Tareq Argoub third. 30-39: Khaled Abdul Karim first, Salah Al Sayegh second and Talal Barghouti third. 40-49: Mohammad Statieh first, Ryad Bader second, Zaid Suweid third. 50-59: Sufian Rasheed first, Akram Mushrabash second and Mefleh Salameh third. 60-69: Oqla Al Masri first, Adnan Abdul Latif second and Abdul Al Wahab Al Falah third. Over 50: Jerjes

Yussef first, Isma'il Al Dajani second and Mohammad Zaki Jbara third. Women under 20: Hana Gharabli first, Muna Gharabli second and Faten Mohammad third. Fozieh Al Barghouti won the over 20 category, Dina Fu'ad Kanani second and Kholoud Al Jaouni third. Four handicapped joined the race and made it to the end where the first to reach was Mahmoud Fayed, Mohammad Omar Yussef next and Mahmoud Sha'aban third followed by Thana Halaseh.

Apart of Prince Ra'd's participation in the race, there were Aqaba's Railway Director Suheil Hamzeh, the Dean of Hiteen College Abdul Rahim Aref, Dr. Fawwaz Touqan, lecturer at the University of Jordan, means of science and sports faculties at the University of Jordan and President of JAAA Mohammad Hamdan, ex-President of the Table Tennis Federation Sufian Shaheen, member of the Arab Basketball Federation Muder Majdoub, Vice-President of Orthodox Club and Jordanian Basketball Federation Farah Kakish, Michael Al Sayegh, Director General for the National Paints Company which financed the race and sport veteran Esmail Dajani.

A 53-year old Swedish citizen, Harriette Oyval who took part in the race together with 132 foreigners living in the Kingdom told the Jordan Times that she hopes that this event occurs annually because it enables people of all ages contact with each others to practise this type of exercise which, she said that people need.



Jordanian national side beats Egyptian police

AMMAN (J.T.) — The national Jordanian football team Friday defeated the Egyptian police team in Cairo, reports received here said.

The first half was dominated by the Egyptians who led 1-0 at half-time but the Jordanians came back into the match in the second half with two goals scored by captain Khaled Saleem in the 23rd minute and Issam Al Taly in the 31st minute to end the match 2-1.

The Jordanian side who are in Egypt at the invitation of the Egyptian Police Sports Union were.

beaten in the first match of their visit last Tuesday. A combined team from the police and Ismailia soccer team beat the visitors 2-0.

On Thursday the Jordanians were received by the Egyptian Interior Minister Ahmad Rushdi who emphasised the importance of sports meetings between various Arab teams as well as other international meetings. He told the Jordanian side that the Egyptian Police Sports Union has been very active in promoting sporting ties between Arab sport clubs.

Tunisian bids for WBA title

RIVA DEL GARDA, Italy (R) — Tunisian Kamel Bou Ali makes a rare appearance by an Arab boxer in a major title fight when he challenges American World Boxing Association (WBA) junior lightweight champion Rocky Lockridge on Sunday.

Bou Ali, based in Italy under an Italian manager, has never lost a professional fight in a 17-bout career. The 26-year-old fighter is

quietly confident he can beat the champion if he takes his time to weigh up his opponent.

"I never like to make predictions about when a fight will end, but I rate my chances of winning very highly if I can get through the first three rounds unscathed," Bou Ali said.

For Bou Ali, the eighth son of a bricklayer, defeat could herald the end of his boxing career, while victory would help his dreams of opening a gymnasium come true.

Lockridge, making a second defence of the title he won last February when he knocked out fellow-American Roger Mayweather, respects the Tunisian's skills but is confident of victory.

"Bou Ali is a good fighter and he's as fast as a cat but I'm just going to be too strong for him," said the 25-year-old from Paterson, New Jersey, who has lost only three of his 34 professional fights.

Monte Carlo Rally on the road again

MONTE CARLO (R) — The Monte Carlo Rally, nearly driven off the road this winter, roars back to life through the highways of Europe Saturday.

West German Walter Roehrl, the defending champion, hopes to chase his fifth overall victory and keep Audi on top against the challenge of Peugeot, who finished 1984 in riptearing style.

Roehrl was Thursday reported ill and his doctor confirmed he was being treated for influenza but said he expected him to start the rally as scheduled Saturday morning.

Just four weeks ago, the Automobile Club of Monaco (ACM) declared the 1985 rally cancelled after three months' wrangling with the French Motor Sport Federation (FFSA) and its President Jean-Marie Balestre over an unprecedented demand for a one million franc (\$110,000) levy for use of French territory.

The ACM reversed the decision 24 hours later when the FFSA agreed the rally could be held under the same conditions as in the previous year.

But the prolonged uncertainty has taken its toll on Europe's oldest and most famous road rally, leaving the organisers expecting 120 to 125 entrants, compared with 236 last year.

The polemic still rumbled on Thursday with the appeal tribunal of the International Automobile Federation (FIA) deliberating on who should have organisational sporting control over the event.

FIA might even expel the ACM next month as a result of the differences, including a row over the television rights of the Monaco Grand Prix.

But politics will take a back-seat Saturday when the 53rd rally begins, and competitors screech away on the 4,000-km journey leading from six starting towns to Monaco.

Competitors converge early Sunday morning on Saint-Etienne and complete 34 timed stages before Friday's finish here.

They leave from Bad Homburg in West Germany at 1,168 km, the longest route, Paris at 891 km, the shortest, Barcelona, Lausanne, Sestriere in Italy and Monte Carlo itself.

The biggest contingent — about 40 cars — will set out from beneath the Eiffel Tower, a change

from the usual Paris start at the Place de la Concorde. They include the three Peugeot entries, driven by 1981 World Champion Ari Vatanen, fellow-Finn Timo Salonen and Frenchman Bruno Saby.

Vatanen and co-driver Terry Harryman dominated the second half of the 1984 World Rally Championship, piloting the new Peugeot 205 Turbo to three wins in the season's last four races.

There were only five races left in the 12-race season when Peugeot made their entry, so they were unable to overhaul Audi and Lancia at the top of the manufacturers' standings.

But the French car firm will be challenging for their first title win

this year and will provide a formidable obstacle to Roehrl, who hopes to make 1985 the year of his third overall world rally drivers' title.

Roehrl, world champion in 1980 and 1982, won the Monte in a Fiat Abarth in 1980, an Opel Ascona in 1982, a Lancia in 1983 and an Audi Quattro last year.

Sweden's Stig Blomqvist, reigning world champion and second here last year, pilots the other Audi, starting from Bad Homburg with rally entry number one. Roehrl also leaves from there.

Lancia, upstaged by Audi's 1-2-3 sweep in 1984, have cut back their entry from four to two, as have the West Germans.

Al Hajiri wins Qatar rally

DOHA (R) — Said Al Hajiri of the Gulf State of Qatar Friday won the two-day 900-kilometre (570 miles) Qatari International Road Rally.

Hajiri, driving a Porsche, covered the 765 km (475 miles) qualifying distance in three hours 54 minutes and 38 seconds.

Mohammed Bin Sullem of the United Arab Emirates in a Toyota Celica Turbo, came second with a time of 4:03:33 and Tony Georgiou of Oman, in a Nissan 240 RS, third in 4:19:33.

Eppe claims her 1st ever slalom

AROSA, Switzerland (R) — West German skier Maria Eppe, without a World Cup victory for two years, stepped back on to the winner's rostrum Friday after winning her first ever slalom race by 1/100th of a second.

Eppe, who led eventual runner-up Tamara McKinney of

the U.S. by over a second after the first run, lost precious time on the second-leg when she almost missed a gate but recovered her poise to snatch a dramatic win.

"I'm wild with joy. I've been dreaming of a slalom win for 11 seasons," said the former giant slalom world champion.

Amman Little League

Basketball scores played Jan. 25

Juniors	Al Ahlya 9
Volvo 22	Grindlays 8
Ericsson 30	Goodyear 9
Intercon 24	
Mids	
Cairo-Amman 19	Int. Traders 10
American Express 36	Chase Manhattan 18
Marriott 20	Lego 2
Seniors	
Foxboro 23	Holiday Inn 16
Jordan Express 38	Astra 26
Adults	
Yanks 38	Froggies 33
ACS 54	Odd & Ends 39
Marines 47	Laing 47
Yanks 65	
Elba 36	

(Played Wednesday Jan. 23)

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3:30 5:00 8:30 10:30 p.m.

Cinema OPERA

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GHOSTBUSTERS

(in colour)
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Cinema PALESTINE

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2- CALIFORNIA MATCHES
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New firm to consolidate Jordanian shipping lines

AMMAN (R) — Jordan's government has licensed a new shipping firm, the Jordanian Shipping Transport Company, and a company spokesman said Thursday it hoped its vessels would be operating by May.

Spokesman Tala Oussous told Reuters nearly 50 founding members, some of them Kuwaitis, had contributed half the authorised capital of four million dinars (about \$10 million).

He said the balance would be

raised in equal parts from Kuwaiti and Jordanian businessmen in Kuwait next month and share offerings in Jordan in March.

Mr. Oussous said the company, licensed earlier this month, would initially buy two general cargo ships to ply on routes serving Jordan's only port of Aqaba on the Red Sea.

"We hope to have our ships at sea by May this year," he said, but gave no details.

Jordan National Shipping Lines Ltd. is the country's main shipping firm in which the government holds 75 per cent equity. It has a fleet of two 22,000-tonne bulk carriers and two 13,500-tonne general cargo ships.

A joint Syrian-Jordanian shipping company has two 6,500-tonne ships and the privately-owned Jordan Maritime Navigation Company Ltd. has one 1,100-tonne motor vessel.

OPEC may adopt alternative Saudi reference price scheme

KUWAIT (R) — OPEC may soon abandon Saudi Arabia's light crude as a base on which to fix oil prices, but might still rely on the kingdom for a central reference price, Gulf OPEC officials said Thursday.

The Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) hoped to maintain its general price level, despite price-cutting by North Sea producers and weak spot — or free — markets, they said.

But the organisation, whose prices currently are pegged around a marker of \$29 a barrel for Arab light crude, needed to reify prices to combat undercutting by Britain and Norway which had forced OPEC-member Nigeria unilaterally to lower its prices.

As part of a wide-ranging overhaul started last month, the traditional policy of linking prices to the Arab light market will probably be dropped soon to give OPEC new flexibility in adjusting to changing market conditions, they said.

"Another Saudi crude, or a basket of crudes produced by the kingdom, could be adopted as a new reference tool," one added.

The officials said OPEC could not dispense with a reference base altogether, and any alternative would have to be related to a leading crude or crudes sold by the group.

The possibilities for change will

come under the spotlight when OPEC ministers meet in Geneva next week to complete price changes started last month, in an attempt largely to avert a price war with the North Sea producers.

Officials said Wednesday a team of OPEC experts has mapped out a plan to bring the prices of OPEC's highest quality light crudes and those of heavy types much closer.

It is hoped, they said, that this will enable Nigeria and Algeria, which have publicly disassociated themselves from OPEC's pricing policy, to revert to new official prices.

The new prices for OPEC's various crudes, to be set within a band of around \$2.50, would restore a competitive balance after changes in demand and refining patterns had given heavy types a big sales advantage over the lighter grades.

The precise cost of the group's many crudes had still to be worked out, the officials said, but added the proposed changes implied some reduction in the current Arab light benchmark.

The officials said a number of ideas for a new reference system had been proposed.

These include retention of a single crude as the benchmark, but switching it from Arab light to

Arab heavy which is expected to become a bigger component in future Saudi export packages.

A weighted price based on a basket of the crudes making up Saudi Arabia's export package was also a strong possibility, they said.

The current Saudi mix comprises 40 per cent light crude, 35 per cent heavy and 25 per cent medium, but Saudi Arabia's Oil Minister Ahmad Zaki Yamani has voiced a desire to adjust the output of his various crudes.

This could reduce the light crude component in the mix to around 25 per cent, and allow the inclusion of up to five per cent extra-light crude in the package, Gulf oil traders say.

The idea of a pricing system based on a basket of crudes from several producers had also been floated, but the officials ruled this out as too unwieldy.

"Such a cocktail will give a bad hangover," one official remarked, adding the blends making up any basket must be closely related along the lines of the Saudi export parcel.

A price average weighted according to individual members' output or exports had been looked at, but might also prove difficult to administer flexibly.

Lebanese banks suspend foreign exchange dealings

BEIRUT (R) — Lebanese banks Friday closed all foreign exchange dealings after the pound plunged to a record low in a wave of speculation, losing about 10 per cent of its value in 24 hours, dealers said.

They said all dealing was halted at 9.30 a.m. (0730 GMT) after the pound traded at 12.25 to the dollar against Thursday's 11.00/10 close and Friday's 11.00/50 opening. It was quoted as low as 12.35/85 during the morning.

The currency stood at 5.50 to the dollar one year ago.

The dealers said the drop in the pound was due to large dollar demands by big banks which appeared to be well beyond their commercial requirements.

They said banks decided to halt foreign exchange trading within an hour of the market opening and that central bank officials were meeting to deal with the matter.

The decision was taken to prevent a further drop in the currency, the dealers said. The market was expected to reopen only after authorities decided on measures to restore stability.

Finance Minister Camille Chamoun said Thursday Lebanon could face catastrophe if the government did not act quickly to check the rapid decline of the Lebanese pound.

Mr. Chamoun issued the warning after he and three other ministers discussed Lebanon's growing economic, financial and social problems at a special meeting summoned by parliamentary speaker Mr. Hussein Al Hussein.

Urging the government and parliament to take immediate measures to check the currency's plunge, Mr. Chamoun told reporters: "In the event of any delay, I am afraid we may face a catastrophe."

He said it was unlikely the pound could regain its former strength on currency markets, and the best that could be hoped for was to check its decline.

After chairing the meeting, also attended by the ministers for labour, economy and trade, and telecommunications, Mr. Hussein formed a parliamentary committee to draft proposals for tackling the economic, financial and social crisis.

Financial sources attribute the pound's decline to political uncertainty as well as non-existent

investment, massive unemployment, rising inflation and lack of government funds.

Although accurate statistics do not exist, the sources believed inflation was now running at more than 30 per cent and up to 40 per cent of the workforce is unemployed.

Beirut is already experiencing a wave of armed robberies, and there are fears of further social problems unless the economy can be revived.

Businessman halts operations

Meanwhile, Mr. Rafiq Hariri, a Lebanese businessman who has poured millions of dollars into relief and reconstruction in Lebanon since Israel's 1982 invasion, has decided the money is going down the drain.

"We decided 12 days ago to suspend all our operations," Mr. Sabbah Al Haj, general manager of Mr. Hariri's Beirut-based Oger-Liban Construction Company, told Reuters.

Oger-Liban's major projects in Beirut were to rebuild the shattered city centre and construct 60,000 housing units in war-damaged Muslim suburbs. Fighting last year halted the first project and prevented a start on the second.

Oger-Liban and the charitable Hariri Foundation have given relief and hope to thousands of ordinary Lebanese, who have come to see Mr. Hariri as a unique national benefactor amid the country's apparently endless factional conflicts.

Mr. Hariri, a stocky energetic man in his early forties, gained much of his wealth by capturing a lucrative share of the construction market in Saudi Arabia. He married the sister of Saudi King Fahd's wife and has also gained Saudi nationality.

His foundation will go on giving scholarships and help to many, but Oger-Liban's decision shows he believes reconstruction is impossible in Lebanon at present.

Mr. Hariri folded up the company's plans because he felt his efforts for the country were not appreciated and the government

had failed to follow up on his initiatives, Mr. Haj explained.

He would not resume operations until there was a "change in attitude" from private business and the government.

"Some have taken our work for granted. They come and demand things, sometimes even by force," Mr. Haj said. "And a certain group is unhappy with what we are doing to try and keep West Beirut alive," he said without elaboration.

Work on restoring the city centre began in April 1983 and continued until it again became a battleground.

Oger-Liban had spent 40 million Lebanese pounds (\$8 million at the time) on a project, the first phase of which was to have cost about 1.5 billion pounds, Mr. Haj said.

Mr. Hariri's decision to retrench is a blow to an economy struggling with stagnation, unemployment and inflation, a yawning balance of payments deficit and a plunging currency.

But one banker took the news philosophically, saying the harassed "national unity" government probably would not notice it. "Hariri should not waste his money," he added.

Before the Israeli invasion, Mr. Hariri was building a huge medical complex near Sidon, as a gift for his native region.

During the invasion, he sent medical supplies to Sidon and later cleared the city of rubble and corpses and repaired utilities, schools and hospitals.

A similar clean-up of Beirut took three months and cost Mr. Hariri 190 million pounds (\$40 million then).

Mr. Hariri spent another \$18.7 million last year on relief and reconstruction in Beirut's southern suburbs, blitzed by the Lebanese army last February.

"Many buildings were flooded because water mains were destroyed. Sewage was floating in the streets. Many families lost their home and needed food and blankets," Mr. Haj said.

"We have rehabilitated public places, streets, garbage dumps and damaged buildings," he added.

Mr. Hariri has no plans yet to lay off any of the firm's 1,100-strong workforce.

"If we dismissed those who are not doing productive work we would have to dismiss 700-800 people. That would create a crisis," Mr. Haj said.

Exxon's profits soar to \$5.5b

NEW YORK (R) — Exxon, the world's biggest corporation, said Thursday its profits soared to \$5.5 billion in 1984 — an 11 per cent jump over 1983 despite the tumbling price of oil products worldwide.

Although its overall revenues dropped in the last three months of the year because of the sliding oil prices, Exxon said it benefited by increasing its production of crude.

It said profits were also helped because as the price of oil fell, its

tax levies and royalty payments to governments declined.

In the fourth quarter slower economic growth in the United States and generally warmer than normal weather cut its profit margins.

This left Exxon's fourth quarter revenues at 24.5 billion, down slightly from 1983's final quarter, but its total income for 1984 rose 2.7 per cent to \$97.2 billion.

It said 1984 began with a rush as demand for petroleum and che-

micals surged during the economic recovery of the first half of the year. The growth slowed in the second half, leading to surplus supply and excess refining capacity.

Exxon said profits from exploration and production of crude and natural gas in the United States totalled \$2 billion last year, an increase of \$146 million from 1983.

U.S. crude output remained about the same as in 1983.

LONDON STOCK MARKET

LONDON (R) — Equities closed firm, as recent fears of an increase in U.K. base rates subsided with domestic rates easing as sterling steadied, dealers said.

Prospects of a settlement in the U.K. miners dispute and late news the miners union is to hold informal talks with the National Coal Board further encouraged sentiment. Government bonds closed up to 3/4 point higher, though trading remained cautious ahead of Monday's OPEC meeting.

The F.T. 30 share index was up 8.8 points at 1500 GMT Friday moving over 1,000 again to 1,000.5 and at 1530 GMT Friday FTSE 100 index added 9.5 to 1,284.2. North Americans were mixed.

The U.K. government said it issued £250 million in tranches of two existing index-linked bonds at 1530 GMT.

Among the leaders, ICI was unchanged at 824 after 816, but Allied-Lyons rose 14p to 189 and BOC gained 7p to 302.

In firm banks, Natwest rose 23p to 637 and Barclays was up 12p to 624. Among insurers, Pearl gained 25p to 1,168 while Britannic was up 7p to 623. In oils, B.P. firmed 10p to 513.

Electricals remain depressed by Rascal's recent lower profit forecast for the second half, but had moved off the lows by the close. Rascal was down 49p to 212 after 204, while Plessey was unchanged at 188 after 184 and GEC fell a net 2p to 198.

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Friday.

One sterling	1.1190/1200	U.S. dollars
One U.S. dollar	1.3240/43	Canadian dollars
	3.1585/95	West German marks
	3.5715/30	Dutch guilders
	2.6555/70	Swiss francs
	63.17/20	Belgian francs
	9.6600/50	French francs
	1947.0/8.0	Italian lire
	253.65/75	Japanese yen
	9.0225/0325	Swedish crowns
	9.1450/1550	Norwegian crowns
	11.2675/2775	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	398.70/299.20	U.S. dollars

YOUR DAILY Horoscope

from the Carroll Righter Institute

FORECAST FOR SATURDAY, JAN. 26, 1985

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Now you have a free weekend when you would be wise to seriously consider what your goals for the future actually are and what you need to do to make these an actual part of your life.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Study your ambitions for the future and know how best to attain them and the path you wish to follow.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Sit in the quiet of your study or be with intimates and plan the future more intelligently. Use psychology with the one you love.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) A good day for seeing and being with interesting friends you like and deepening the relationships.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) Study your tasks in the business world and know how better to handle them in the future.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) You are anxious to have new things around you and this can be achieved today. Any new contacts can remain in your life for a while.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Find a better way to please the one you love and make the relationship more meaningful. You have excellent ideas.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) A good day to plan greater success for yourself and partners and to make any revisions that may be necessary.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Be more enthused about work you have to do and you become very efficient at it. Relax tonight.

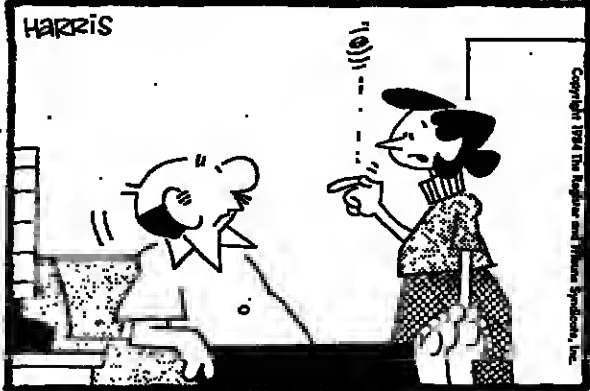
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) You get new ideas that can help you to express some talent admirably now. Don't neglect to do marketing early.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) A good day to study your kin and know what will give them pleasure. Make your home more charming and attractive.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Study into new ways of producing and you can get ahead much faster now in your career.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Gain some new inspirations and put aside all that traditionalism that keeps you from progressing. Show that you are clever.

THE BETTER HALF. By Harris



"Heads, we call a plumber first. Tails, we call a scuba instructor first!"

JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

LUPPI
PHOCE
CRESPO
LORFIC

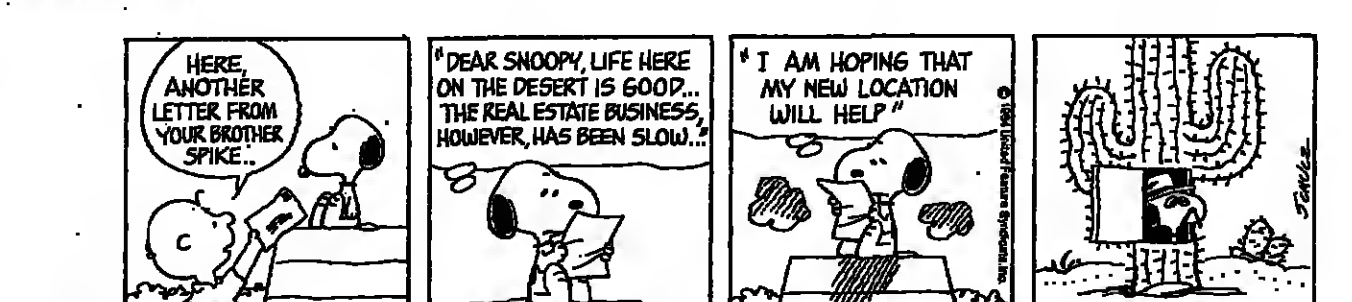
Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here: _____

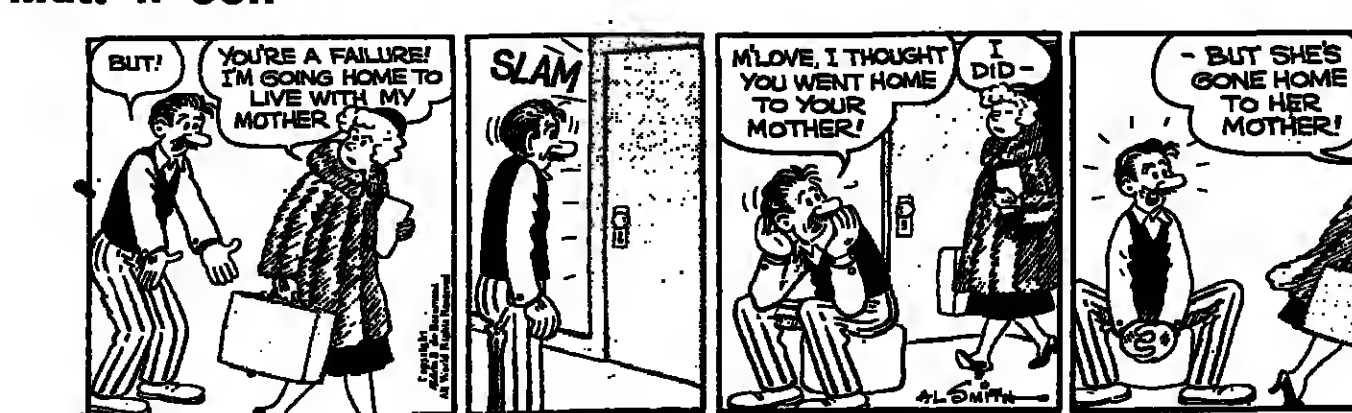
(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: ENEMY MADAM GUILTY SECEDE
Answer: The best line to hook a woman with — "MASCULINE"

Peanuts



Mutt 'n' Jeff



Andy Capp



THE Daily Crossword by Mary C. Whitten

ACROSS

- Force
- Dull finish
- Bedouin garb
- Reddeness
- Seaweed extracts
- chic
- Author Emily
- Morocco capital
- Part
- Small hawk
- Roovers
- Underhand
- Color, resort
- Rooster
- Prefix for angle or pod
- Autocrats
- Labrynth
- Pan
- Court entry
- Golf club
- Mirage sight
- Wind
- "Wind, — and Stars"
- "— of Old Smokey"
- Foul callers
- Expensive
- Jose
- Indians
- Change
- Prevent in law
- Dry
- Truman or
- Myerson
- Yea and nay
- sayers
- Gr. theaters
- Feed in a pasture
- Dies —
- Determination
- Fall bloom
- Beetle pot
- Meaty
- In want
- do well
- Naval hazards
- "Simon —"
- Young lady
- Court
- Paragon
- Psychic letters
- Mediation
- 45 Numero —

DOWN

- 1 Nap
- 2 Paragon
- 3 Lopez theme
- 4 Mediation
- 5 type
- Borgnine role
- Turf, VIP
- Check
- Change
- Prevent in law
- Dry
- Truman or
- Myerson
- Yea and nay
- sayers
- Gr. theaters
- Feed in a pasture
- Dies —
- Determination
- Fall bloom
- Beetle pot
- Meaty
- In want
- do well
- Naval hazards
- "Simon —"
- Young lady
- Court
- Paragon
- Psychic letters
- Mediation
- 45 Numero —

Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

CAPIE COLLOR CLIDE
OVIDER ADDIE BOUZY
NORMANDISTIPENCE
AWN LASY BRESTY
RIP ALITP
APLIE BINTHESUN
REAL COYER YAR
ANGIE ARA TUITI
STIE YONIC PEAR
ABOUDOTHEWORLD
LIDED NON
USARIC OATIEEVEE
STARKINDUCEDVEE
TORI MANDIGRIT
OLIE AMENS BENE

47 Daughter of Lear
48 "— little breeze"
49 An Adams
50 TV's Carter
51 Mystery name
52 Lung sound
53 Char
54 Se indebted
55 Ingested
56 Eng. letter

South Africa's new mixed-race parliament opens

Botha: Blacks will be given more political influence

CAPE TOWN (R) — South African President P.W. Botha said Friday the country's black majority would be given more political influence but stopped short of saying they would be included in the white-run central government.

He said the government intended to resolve the problem of forced removals of blacks from areas designated for whites, which have sparked bitter international condemnation.

He said the government was giving urgent consideration to steps to eliminate negative and discriminatory aspects of the laws which restrict the movement of blacks.

Mr. Botha was opening a new parliament in which Indians and Coloureds (people of mixed race) will take part for the first time. Blacks are excluded from the new legislative set-up. Full political control is still in the hands of the white minority.

Mr. Botha said it had been decided that blacks living outside the tribal homelands set up by Pretoria under the apartheid system of racial separation must be given political participation and a say at

higher levels.

Mr. Botha said, "structures must therefore be developed for black communities outside the national states through which they can themselves decide on their own affairs up to the highest level."

He emphasised that independence for the homelands remained the government's goal although he said the vexed question of South African citizenship was being investigated.

At present blacks are forced to forego their South African nationality and become homeland citizens. Many thus lose the right to live and work in South Africa and need special documents for overseas travel.

The homelands are recognised as sovereign states by South Africa only. They have been condemned by the rest of the world.

"In taking decisions in the interest of our country, the government must have regard to the fact that circumstances and events in the rest of the world have a definite influence on our country and our sub-continent," he said.

Mr. Botha said he accepted the presence of large numbers of blacks in South Africa itself, as opposed to the homelands, and suggested that many blacks would soon be allowed to own freehold property in the republic.

Mr. Botha said he had decided to set up an informal forum in which interest groups and government representatives could discuss black affairs.

The president firmly ruled out democracy in a unitary state as demanded by opponents of the government.

"It remains the government's point of departure that it is neither desirable nor practicable (politically) to accommodate all communities in the same way," he said.

Meanwhile British Peer Lord Nicholas Bethell visited South Africa's jailed black nationalist leader Nelson Mandela this week,

two weeks after U.S. Senator Edward Kennedy was barred from seeing him, informed British sources said Friday.

Mandela, an international symbol of resistance to South Africa's white minority government, has been in jail for over 20 years. He used to lead the outlawed African National Congress.

Lord Nicholas, a member of the European Parliament, visited Mandela in Pollsmoor Prison near Cape Town on Monday, they said.

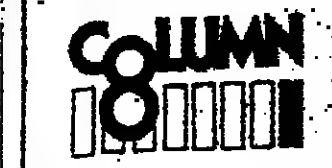
Sen. Kennedy, who generated a wave of controversy during a week-long tour of South Africa earlier this month, was refused permission to visit Mandela by the prison service because as a foreign politician he did not qualify for prison visits.

The British sources said Lord Nicholas was apparently given permission for the visit because of his interest in human rights issues. He left South Africa for England on Wednesday.

South African newspapers have been speculating that Mandela could be in line for release from jail under an amnesty.



COALFACE CLOWN: Striking miner Ted Pickles, 51, (left), brings a lighter side to Britain's current coal strike, when he entertains miner's children, in his role as a circus clown (right). (AP wirephoto)



Egypt's first bank robbery goes wrong

CAIRO (R) — Egyptian police have foiled the first bank robbery attempt in the country for 25 years. Interior Ministry officials said. They said four masked men armed with guns and daggers were caught red-handed early Sunday morning as they broke into a branch of the American First National City Bank in the Cairo suburb of Heliopolis. The police, after a tip-off, were waiting inside the bank. Egyptian banks are normally subject to tight security.

Blind man gets driver's licence

RIO DE JANEIRO, Brazil (AP) — When Renildo Santana Guedes got his driver's licence this week, major newspapers called attention to the event. Guedes is blind. The request for the licence was part of an investigation into alleged irregularities of the transit authority by the newspaper Tribuna da Bahia, in the north eastern city of Salvador. The newspaper reported it simply had given Guedes' name and 200,000 cruzeiros — about \$60 — to a local "dispatcher", one of thousands of professional clerks in this country who are living by moving paperwork quickly through the ponderous Brazilian bureaucracy. Within a week, the paper said, the unidentified "dispatcher" handed over a perfectly legal driver's licence for Guedes, valid until 1999. Guedes, 25, was quoted as saying he had gone along with the plan in order to call attention to the problems faced by handicapped citizens and "maybe to get a job offer — as long as it's not for a chauffeur."

British impresario dies at 81

LONDON (R) — Sir Emile Littler, who started as a stagehand and rose to become one of Britain's top theatrical impresarios, has died aged 81, relatives have announced. Littler, a former president of London's West End Theatre Managers Society, was known as the King of Pantomime. He put on more than 200 of these traditional British entertainments, along with scores of other musicals and plays. Littler is survived by his wife Cora, a former actress, and two daughters. The cause of his death was not disclosed.

Man, wife die in head-on collision

PONCHON, France (R) — A man and his wife driving their separate cars were killed when the vehicles collided head-on with each other, police said. The victims were Philippe Boverly, 37, and his wife Monique, 43, both bank employees. Police said they were investigating the possibility that it could have been a bizarre suicide pact.

Reagan writes to Chinese schoolgirl

PEKING (R) — A 14-year-old Chinese school girl has received a letter from President Ronald Reagan after she wrote to congratulate him on his second term in office. The Peking Evening News has said. Mr. Reagan wrote back to thank Diao Wei and sent her a signed photograph, the newspaper said.

Top Soviet test pilot dies

MOSCOW (R) — Top Soviet test pilot Mikhail Gromov, who made several record flights before World War II, has died aged 85. TASS news agency said. An obituary signed by President Konstantin Chernenko and other Soviet leaders said he died on Tuesday. Mr. Gromov took part in a trail-blazing flight from the Soviet Union to the United States over the North Pole in 1937, with two other pilots. He was awarded the title Hero of the Soviet Union in 1934 after making a record 12,000-kilometre round trip. Gromov, born in Tver (now Kalinin) north of Moscow in February 1899, began testing planes at air force research facilities at the age of 25. During World War II he held key air force commands and was made a colonel-general in 1944. After the war he was deputy commander of the long-range wing of the air force.

New Caledonian emergency extended

PARIS (AP) — The French parliament early Friday extended the state of emergency in the troubled Pacific island of New Caledonia until June 30.

But the vote was overshadowed by a surprise offer from Dick Ukeiwe, president of the island's conservative local government and a senator in Paris, to meet independence leader Jean-Marie Tjibaou for talks.

Opposition members of parliament demanded the constitutional council rule on the constitutionality of the bill, but this was seen only as a manoeuvre and the council was expected to approve the bill. French President Francois Mitterrand was expected to sign the bill into law Friday evening.

Mr. Ukeiwe had said on arrival in Paris Wednesday he could not meet Mr. Tjibaou, also currently in Paris, describing him as "in rebellion" against the French state.

Speaking to the Senate, Mr. Ukeiwe castigated the Socialist government's decision to extend

the state of emergency, saying it discriminated against loyalist New Caledonians, and favoured the separatists.

But he then noted that "a representative" — Tjibaou — of the Kanak Socialist National Liberation Front (FLNKS) "has said he is a man of peace and dialogue and I invite him to the negotiating table."

Premier Laurent Fabius praised Mr. Ukeiwe's "appeal to dialogue."

Mr. Tjibaou made no immediate answer, but in a radio interview from New Caledonia broadcast in France, the FLNKS spokesman Yewene Yewene said Mr. Ukeiwe should be talking with French special representative in the island Edgard Pisani, as the FLNKS was.

In Noumea, Mr. Pisani's High Commission office announced that six government public works officials were beaten up and injured Friday on the island of Mare by FLNKS supporters armed with clubs.

The officials had flown from Noumea to Mare, the southernmost of the Loyalty Islands off the east coast of New Caledonia and home of Mr. Yewene and Nidoish Naisseline, leader of another independence movement, to inspect work on a school.

The High Commission said 75 gendarmes had been sent to the island. It said Thursday night, FLNKS militants met a plane at Mare Airport and said they were forbidding the arrival of any Europeans except those involved in building the school. Other European passengers were not allowed off the plane.

On Friday morning they again tried to check arriving passengers when the mayor of the island intervened and scuffles broke out. The six officials were driving to the school when their cars were attacked by some 40 FLNKS militants, who first threw stones and then beat the occupants with fists and clubs, the High Commission said.

Soviet press attacks U.S. shuttle launch

MOSCOW (R) — The Soviet Union's official press attacked the military mission of the United States space shuttle Friday and called it a first step in President Reagan's "Star Wars" plans.

An article in the Communist Party newspaper Pravda entitled the Pentagon's "high frontier" said the shuttle was being used by those who wanted to make space a battleground in their campaign to attain global mastery.

"All this shows that the preparation in the United States for the space spiral of the arms race is continuing unceasingly," Pravda said.

Reports by Pravda and the Official News Agency TASS said the shuttle was due to put into orbit a satellite to spy on the Soviet Union, but soured their information to American press reports.

Pravda linked the shuttle launch with other U.S. tests of space-related weapons such as the anti-satellite missile launched from the F-15 fighter.

Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko has warned that the

Kremlin will be insisting on an agreement banning or at least limiting development of space weapons as part of any package of disarmament accords in forthcoming negotiations.

Soviet reports on the Shuttle programme have concentrated on its military potential. Soviet readers have been told nothing of the Kremlin's own re-usable space vehicle which has already been tested twice.

The whole of the Soviet space programme is under military auspices and considered top secret.

Dates and details of all flights other than those of prestige missions involving guest cosmonauts from other countries are not revealed beforehand and no foreign reporters are allowed to visit the Baikonur launch site in Central Asia.

Meanwhile in New Delhi, Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi told parliament Thursday that an Indian scientist or engineer will fly aboard the U.S. space shuttle next year.

Mr. Gandhi said in a written

reply to a question in parliament's Upper House that the Indian government had accepted an offer made by the U.S. National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) to join a space shuttle flight.

Mr. Gandhi, a former airline pilot, said the Indian astronaut would be a scientist or engineer working on board as a payload specialist.

India announced that the United States invited New Delhi to send an astronaut aboard the shuttle in July last year, three months after Squadron Leader Rakesh Sharma became India's first astronaut when he joined two cosmonauts on board a Soviet spaceship.

India's space shuttle crewman would conduct experiments for India's Telecommunications Satellite Programme, Mr. Gandhi told parliament.

The major satellite now used by India, Insat 1B, launched in 1983 on board a U.S. vehicle, was bought from the Ford Aerospace Communication Corporation.

Iran expresses support for Nicaragua

NICOSIA, Cyprus (AP) — Iranian Prime Minister Mir Hussein Musavi currently visiting Nicaragua declared that his country "will always be by the side of Nicaragua," the official Iranian News Agency, IRNA, reported Friday.

Mr. Musavi wished the leftist Nicaraguan government success in its fight against the United States-backed counter-revolutionaries.

"Musavi wished the Nicaraguan government and people success and stressed that to remove boot-necks the Islamic Republic of Iran would always be beside Nicaragua," said the agency, which is monitored here.

Mr. Musavi's expression of sup-

port for the leftist Nicaraguan government coincided with a statement by U.S. President Ronald Reagan on Thursday.

Mr. Reagan declared that Iran had joined other radical forces in aiding the Sandinista regime, thus posing "a new danger" to other countries in Central America.

It was the first mention by the U.S. president of Iranian support for Nicaragua.

During his stay in the Nicaraguan capital, Managua, Mr. Musavi conferred with Juli Ramos, described by IRNA as "Nicaragua's brigade commander and a member of the Sandinista army."

IRNA quoted Mr. Ramos as tel-

ling Mr. Musavi that in the past three years Nicaraguan Defence Forces had killed 7,000 counter-revolutionaries.

"Referring to U.S. political and military provocations against Nicaragua, Ramos noted that the United States had turned Honduras into a big aircraft carrier against Nicaragua," IRNA said.

The United States had also established a flight training centre in the region and was constantly carrying out reconnaissance flights, Ramos was quoted as saying.

"The objective of all these manoeuvres was to attack Nicaragua as an imaginary enemy," Mr. Ramos added.

Australian envoy hits U.S. on UNESCO pullout

CANBERRA (R) — Former Australian Prime Minister Gough Whitlam, now Australia's ambassador to UNESCO, Friday attacked the United States for withdrawing from the organisation.

There was an element of "if you can't run it, wreck it" in the U.S. decision to pull out of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) at the end of last year, Mr. Whitlam told a press conference.

He predicted the United States would rejoin UNESCO in a few years.

Washington recently mounted an assault on specialist aid agencies and international organisations and UNESCO was vulnerable because it had received a bad press, Mr. Whitlam said.

He said that in the early days of the organisation the U.S. and other Western countries had an automatic majority in UNESCO but in the 1960s the developing countries began to join the organisation and now had a majority.

"The Americans want to keep the agenda where it was — no later than 1960," Mr. Whitlam said.

The United States did not want UNESCO to appear to be the vehicle for discussions and actions wanted by the majority of the countries in the world, the developing countries, he said.

Aquino case arrangement set for Feb. 1

MANILA (R) — The judge who will preside over the trial of those accused of the murder of Philippine opposition leader Benigno Aquino Friday set Feb. 1 for the formal arraignment.

Special court Judge Manuel Pamaran, dubbed the "hanging judge" because of his reputation for sentencing criminals to death, told reporters he would begin daily hearings after the arraignment but could not say how long the case would last.

In the dock will be 25 soldiers, including several bemuddled chiefs led by Armed Forces Chief General Fabian Ver, and a civilian. They were charged two days

ago and ordered arrested Thursday.

Gen. Ver, a kinsman and close confidant of President Ferdinand Marcos, is the highest military officer to be charged in a criminal case in the country.

He was freed on a bail of 30,000 pesos (\$1,500) after surrendering to the sheriff at 6.30 a.m., 90 minutes before courts normally open. Judge Pamaran, who earned his reputation as a trial court judge in the early 1970s, Friday ordered 23 soldiers to be confined to the national penitentiary.

The Ombudsman, who filed the charges, named Gen. Ver and seven others as accessories to the

murder and recommended bail for them as well as a civilian named as an accomplice.

He did not recommend bail for the 17 principal accused. They as well as those who failed to post bail were sent to the penitentiary.

The penitentiary, where hardened criminals are normally lodged, was picked after a senior police officer wrote to the judge, saying some criminals in the local jail were determined to kill a number of the accused.

Sen. Aquino, longtime political foe of President Ferdinand Marcos, was killed in August 1983 at Manila Airport after he returned from voluntary exile in the United States.

Rolando Galman, the man named by the military as the killer, was shot by security men moments later.

Sen. Aquino's murder plunged the Philippines into crisis. The charges laid after 18 months of investigations by an independent inquiry commission which said there was a military plot to kill him.

Pope starts visit to Latin America today

VATICAN CITY (R) — Pope John Paul embarks Saturday on his sixth visit to Latin America, a 12-day trip expected to be dominated by the social and religious problems of a continent going through its worst economic crisis in 50 years.

The issues the Pope will address during his 30,000 kilometre itinerary, his 25th foreign trip, range from liberation theology to Latin America's foreign debt, from rights of indigenous people to the need for further evangelisation.

All three countries which Pope John Paul will tour are heavily indebted and affected by recession. Venezuela and Ecuador have been hit by falling demand for their oil exports. Peru is in the grip of a cruel guerrilla war in which 4,000 people have been killed, many of them Quechua Indians massacred in their villages.

The most dramatic stop of the journey will take the Pope to the very heart of that war waged by the Maoist Sendero Luminoso (Shining Path) guerrilla group, for an hour-long service at Ayacucho, 2,760 metres up in the Andes.

The Pope will address poor Indians in their native Quechua language in the Ecuadorean town of Latacunga and at the Peruvian fortress of Sacsayhuaman whose formidable ruins recall the past splendour of the INCA empire.

Greece accuses Turkey of new air violations

ATHENS (R) — Greece said Turkey violated its airspace Thursday for the third day running, and the Turkish ambassador in Athens was summoned to receive a protest.

A statement said Turkish jets had violated Greek airspace 11 times and infringed air traffic rules 13 times.

It said Foreign Ministry Under-Secretary Yannis Kapsis asked Ambassador Nazmi Akiman to explain "these provocative actions which increase tension in the sensitive area of the Aegean and could cause unpleasant complications."

Greek Ambassador Sotiris Konstantopoulos protested to the Turkish Foreign Ministry in Ankara earlier Thursday about violations on Monday and Tuesday, the statement said.

Turkey and Greece disagree

over air, sea and seabed rights in the Aegean.

Meanwhile Prime Minister Andreas Papandreu has said that Greece is withdrawing indefinitely from the NATO Defence College in Rome because of a row about a classroom scenario involving a coup in Athens.

In a brief statement, the Socialist leader said: "The incident is closed, but no further participation by Greek officers and diplomats is envisaged at the NATO Defence College."

A government spokesman said: "There is no time limit on the decision."

Last week, Greece withdrew three students and a lecturer from the college after they were given a classroom exercise envisaging a foreign-backed coup by the Greek Armed Forces on the day after left-wing election victory.

The spokesman, Dimitrios Maroudas, told a news briefing that Mr. Papandreu had made the decision after considering the contents of an apologetically phrased letter about the incident from the NATO military committee.

According to the Greek National News Agency, ANA, the Brussels-based committee wrote to the head of the Greek Armed Forces, Air Marshal Nikos Kouris, saying there had been irregularities in the exercise, that it would not be repeated and it was hoped the students would return.

"It was impossible for our country to take part in a place where scenarios were being given to pupils that insult the Greek Armed Forces and undermine democratic parliamentary institutions," Mr. Maroudas said.

Asked about the current status of Greek-NATO relations, which

are also overshadowed by a row over whether or not Athens has the right to militarise Lemnos Island, he said:

"Greece participates in both wings (political and military) of NATO, but over and above that, it puts its own national interests."

Papandreu to visit Moscow

The Soviet News Agency TASS said Mr. Papandreu will pay an official visit to Moscow in the first half of February.

Western diplomats expressed interest in the timing of the long-expected trip because of the illness of President Konstantin Chernenko, who has not been seen in public since Dec. 27.

Mr. Papandreu's visit, expected around Feb. 11, is the next occasion on which the Soviet leader would normally be due to make a personal appearance.

Austrian minister under attack for meeting war criminal

VIENNA (R) — Austrian Socialist Friday criticised Defence Minister Friedrich Frischenschlager for meeting freed Nazi criminal Walter Reder and said the incident could cause problems for the country's coalition government.

The Socialists are senior partners in the coalition with the right-wing Freedom Party to which Mr. Frischenschlager belongs.

The Socialist Party's General Secretary Peter Schieder said: "It was clearly unnecessary for Frischenschlager to accompany

Reder personally from Graz to Baden."

A party spokesman said the minister's handling of the Reder affair could create problems within the coalition.

Mr. Frischenschlager was waiting to meet Reder, 69, in the southern Austrian city of Graz when he arrived in an Italian military plane after being set free. He was the last Nazi war criminal held in Italy.

The Austrian defence minister accompanied Reder by helicopter from Graz to the Martinek Mil-

itary Barracks in Baden, near Vienna where Reder is undergoing a medical checkup.

Mr. Frischenschlager's colleague Helene Partik-Pable, the Freedom Party's parliamentary spokeswoman on social affairs, criticised his handling of the affair but said the incident should be forgotten.

"Let by-gones be by-gones, however it was unnecessary for the defence minister to personally meet Reder on arrival," she said.

The leader of Austria's conservative opposition People's

Party, Alois Mock, said in a statement Reder's release Thursday was a humanitarian act "but there was no reason for the defence minister to stage a political show."

Mr. Frischenschlager said: "I did not meet him as a member of the government but for technical reasons." He added: "You can take the most varied positions on the events in question... war criminals are war criminals. I stand by that."

Czechoslovakia said Reder's release was an insult to the memory of the victims of fascism.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
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FOLLOW THE ROADMAP

Both vulnerable. South deals.
NORTH
♠ 102
♥ 54
♦ A J 10 6 2
♣ A 10 4 3
WEST EAST
♠ A K 7 ♠ J 9 8 6 4 3
♥ K Q 10 3 ♥ 8 7 6 2
♦ 7 5 3 ♦ 9 8
♣ 8 6 5 ♣ K

SOUTH
♠ Q 5
♥ A J 9
♦ K Q 4
♣ Q J 9 7 2
The bidding:
South West North East
1 NT Pass 3 NT Pass
Pass Pass
Opening lead: King of ♠.

Just as you can give away gratuitous information about your hand in the bidding, you can reveal your holding in the play of the cards. Cease and desist — the enemy is waiting to use that information against you.

North-South were using a 15-17 point no trump. Although North's hand was worth more than the 9 HCP it counted, a jump to game was still somewhat of a stretch. We would have been content with an invitational raise.

As it was, North-South reached three no trump with a spade stopper that, at best, can be described as shaky. South was Dr. George Rosenkranz of Mexico City, and he was not enamored of

his prospects when West attacked with the king of spades. Fortunately for him, the defenders may have had a mix-up in their signalling methods, for East played his lowest spade to the first trick when he should have encouraged vigorously.

Declarer received a reprieve when West shifted to the king of hearts at trick two. Declarer won the ace and now he had to run eight more tricks without surrendering the lead. To accomplish that, he needed to score at least three club tricks. The recommended method is a finesse, so declarer led the queen of clubs and, when West played low, he rose with the ace to tell the king and bring home his contract with two overtricks.

The French have a saying: "The king of clubs is always singleton!" And the Rabbi's Rule states: "When the king is singleton, play the ace!" But neither of these was the reason for declarer's play. West had already shown the ace-king of spades and the king-queen of hearts with his first two leads. Had he held the king of clubs as well, he might have entered the auction. In any event, East was entitled to hold a card or two, and the only card of any importance not accounted for was the king of clubs. Hence the winning, if anti-percentage, play.